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JOHN BULL

Vol. XIV. No. 369. SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 1913. ONE PENNY

[Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.]

For meaning of this No. see Page II. of Cover.

The world is a bundle of hay;
Mankind are the asses who pull;
Each tugs it a different way,
And the greatest of all is John Bull

—BYRON.

Edited by
HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

CAN YOU DO WITH £1,000 —?—

SEE PAGE 947.

THE TOTALISATOR

paid out £7,459 over the Derby.

Representatives of the following newspapers have witnessed the various Totalisator Draws and certified that they are bona-fide and honestly conducted in every way.

Signed by representatives of:—

"JOHN BULL," "DAILY HERALD," EVENING TIMES," WINNING POST," "LICENSED VICTUALLER'S GAZETTE," OLDHAM STANDARD," "SOUTHPORT VISITOR," "ST. HELENS REPORTER." "ASHTON STANDARD," "NORTH RIDING NEWS," "BEDALE CHRONICLE," "THIRSK GUARDIAN." "MIDLAND SPORTING GAZETTE," "RICHMOND GAZETTE," "HOLBORN GUARDIAN," "HAMPSTEAD RECORD," "RACING JUDGE," "RACEHORSE," "RACING EXPERT," "ST. PANCRAS CHRONICLE."

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LARGE SIZE CONTAINS THREE TIMES THE QUANTITY.

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THE BRAININE COMPANY, 2, MARSHAM ST., WESTMINSTER, LONDON, S.W.

What is your Number?

Every copy of JOHN BULL bears upon its cover a distinctive number, and every week FIFTY of such numbers will be drawn and PUBLISHED IN THE FOLLOWING ISSUE.

To each of the holders of copies of JOHN BULL *of specified date*, bearing any of such numbers, we will, upon production within seven days of publication (a reasonable extension will be allowed to foreign and Colonial claimants) of a sufficient portion of the cover to identify the date and number, pay the sum of TWO GUINEAS in return for his using his best endeavour for one week to increase our circulation. Before the money is paid we require a full report of all the work done.

The following claims have been received:—

Mr. T. E. IVENS, 63, St. James' Park Rd., Northampton. June 7th. No. 862,053.

Mr. R. KNOX, 57, Mayfield Rd., Edinburgh. June 7th. No. 501,273.

Mr. A. SEMPER, 18, Chald Lane, Wakefield, Yorks. June 7th. No. 598,142.

Mr. J. McKERNAN, 180, Main St., Rutherglen, Glasgow. May 31st. No. 023,472.

Mr. J. MARKS, 3, Milton St., Moorhead, Sheffield. May 24th. No. 185,296.

The following are the fifty numbers for our issue of June 21ST.

245	142865	325783	594682	946648
762	186717	346459	695371	953235
1023	195363	385817	710286	954860
1258	197832	400030	724761	978431
2583	205418	405625	769455	971345
4357	214556	410275	802394	983721
8625	243722	428817	883540	992168
9568	285617	498253	892867	A000913
10072	306827	532766	905681	A002460
11328	324131	565892	936745	A013835

The A prefixed to the drawn numbers indicates it is plus a million.

THE FIFTY NUMBERS IN RESPECT OF THIS WEEK WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN OUR NEXT ISSUE (PUBLISHED JULY 2ND).

SEE PAGE 947.

CRICKET COMPETITION. NO. 4.

SEE PAGE 947.

"JOHN BULL" Entrance Form.

Matches starting on July 14 to July 28.

Cross out—in ink—what you think will be the losing club. For a draw do not cross out either club.

MATCHES.

Gentlemen	v.	Players
Lancashire	v.	Gloucestershire
Derbyshire	v.	Somerset
Northampton	v.	Sussex
Kent	v.	Yorkshire
Notts	v.	Gloucestershire
Hampshire	v.	Essex
Surrey	v.	Middlesex
Kent	v.	Lancashire
Sussex	v.	Northampton
Warwickshire	v.	Derbyshire
Worcestershire	v.	Hampshire
Kent	v.	Middlesex
Essex	v.	Hampshire
Sussex	v.	Lancashire
Yorkshire	v.	Notts
Leicestershire	v.	Derbyshire
Yorkshire	v.	Surrey
Lancashire	v.	Warwickshire
Sussex	v.	Essex
Somerset	v.	Northamptonshire

I enter JOHN BULL Cricket Competition in accordance with the rules announced on page 947. and agree to accept the published decision as final and legally binding.

Signed.....

Address.....

.....

Entrance Forms must be cut, not torn out.

Cut here

Competitor's Guide.

As a guide to competitors we give below LAST YEAR'S RESULTS of the matches given on the attached coupon.

Match drawn.
No Match.
Derbyshire won by 133 runs.
Northampton won by 40 runs.
Yorkshire won by an innings and 45 runs.
Gloucester won by one wicket.
Match drawn.
Match drawn.
Kent won by an innings and 20 runs.
Match drawn.
Warwickshire won by an innings and 22 runs.
Hampshire won by eight wickets.
Middlesex won by 271 runs.
Match drawn.
Match drawn.
Yorkshire won by an innings and 102 runs.
Derbyshire won by 83 runs.
Match abandoned.
Match abandoned.
Match drawn.
Northampton won by 283 runs.

As the competition is one of skill, you are also advised to study the cricket columns and reports given in the daily papers.

JOHN BULL.

Politics without Party—Criticism without Cant:
Without Fear or Favour, Rancour or Rant.

Vol. XIV. No. 369. Week ending Saturday, June 28th, 1913. One Penny.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Letters must be addressed to the Editor or the Publisher, according to whether they relate to Editorial or Publishing matters. All **FINANCIAL, INSURANCE** *and* **SPORTING** *enquiries should be addressed to the* **CITY OFFICES, 52, NEW BROAD STREET, E.C.** *All other communications should be addressed to* **93, LONG ACRE, LONDON, W.C.**

£10 REWARD.

Wanted, the Copy of "John Bull" for **JUNE 21st, 1913,** bearing on its Cover the Number **512,952.**

Apply THE MANAGER, "JOHN BULL," 93, Long Acre, London, W.C.

THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL

[The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.]

"The Marconi Marathon."

However much the Party press and the Party politicians may endeavour to keep the Marconi fire alight, the general public is glad that the wretched thing is done with. It was a most childish, flimsy subject for a two-days' parliamentary tournament! Had we still been in the House anyone could have had our seat. We would rather have played marbles with a street urchin than have sat out the ponderous drivel of the "debate." From the moment that it became manifest that there had been nothing in the shape of corruption on the part of Ministers the matter ceased to possess the slightest political importance, and but for the deadly decadence of modern public life it would never have assumed the character of a thing that mattered.

"Honour the Woman."

Our word of tribute to the memory of Miss Davison—the cultured, if misguided, lady who risked, and lost, her life at Epsom for what, rightly or wrongly, she believed to be the cause of her sex, has got us into terrible trouble with some of our readers. We are not unmindful of the considerations which go to modify the fanatical heroism of her deed—but these are humdrum days—and she was a woman! There let it rest.

The Ascot Outrage.

We are glad to note that this, at any rate, was not a Suffragette affair. The demented creature was afflicted with that terrible disease, "religious mania"—responsible for more crime than all the drink and gambling in the world. We read that the mad miscreant had a Bible in his pocket. Now, if only it had been a Racing Guide—what a lot of eloquent sermons would have been preached last Sunday!

Labour Journalism.

We understand that steps are about to be taken to test the legality of levies by Trade Unions for investment in the shares of the *Citizen*. In our own view, there is no doubt whatever on the point. With a few verbal alterations the Osborne judgment will apply. Meanwhile, we note that out of the 158,000 members of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, only 24,000 voted on the subject of the proposed levy, and on the strength of a majority of 3,000 on such a paltry poll the funds of the Society are to be bled further for the benefit of the *Citizen*. It is a scandal. The fact is, *no* "Labour" daily can ever pay its way. Your Keir Hardies and Ramsay Macdonalds were not born to run newspapers; they were born to run gasworks.

Aked's Bunkum.

Starting life as an auctioneer it was not surprising that when Mr. C. F. Aked got religion and became a Baptist pastor he should continue advertising for all he was worth. He advertised all the time he was in the pulpit of Pembroke Baptist Chapel in Liverpool; thereby attracted the notice of the great paraffin merchant Rockefeller (also an exceedingly pious man); subsequently received a "call" to Rockefeller's church at Fifth Avenue, New York—at about twice the salary he was getting in Liverpool—prayed for light, and eventually saw through the darkness of doubt the gleaming star which led him on and on till he reached the Rockefellian cash box. There he conducted his spiritual labour until he quarrelled with the trustees and left to preach on the salubrious slopes of San Francisco, at £2,000 per annum. Now he has become an American citizen and alleges the reason is that he was born into the world with a "hatred of monarchy." What is evident is that friend Aked wasn't born into the world with a hatred of bunkum.

Jettison!

Mr. Asquith's announcement of the Government's intention to drop from the legislative programme "all measures which are not absolutely essential" has aroused no flicker of interest or opposition on either side of the House. The proposed "massacre of the innocents" has become part of the regular machinery of Party government and it has ceased to inspire a shred of compassion. The process of dividing the "essential" from the "unessential" will doubtless be effected with due regard to high national interests—as interpreted by the Government Whips! We shall be interested to observe which is which. And why, by the way, are non-essential measures introduced at all?

The Pankhurst Comedy.

Mrs. Pankhurst is out again. What we mean to say is that she is out again if she is not in again, and even if she is in again she will soon be out again—so there you are. At this rate, she will have completed her 3 years' imprisonment—with the exception of 2 years, 9 months and 4 days—on 31st December, 2,569,803.

Our Fourth Cricket Contest begins this week. More Record Cash Prizes. See page 947.

Waste!

The retirement of Mr. Crawshay-Williams, M.P., as a consequence of a pending divorce suit, though on a lesser plane, vividly recalls the tragedies associated with the names of Sir Charles Dilke and Mr. Parnell. There is a pregnant phrase in the young member's letter of resignation to his constituents: "It is perhaps a pity," he says, "that circumstances which do nothing to impair political capacity should be able to interfere with political activity." Here is the crux of the matter. The problem thus presented has repeatedly agitated the public mind, and has formed the burning theme of at least two powerful dramas. Who shall gauge the loss to British statesmanship involved in the fall of a Dilke, or the blow Irish nationalism sustained by the passing of a Parnell? Are such sacrifices necessary, and are they demanded by the real voice of the nation? If so, so be it—but if not, 'tis a pitifully prodigal waste of manhood in an age whoso chief need is men.

Bluff Beresford.

"You want public men in these days who speak out their minds fearlessly," says Lord Charles Beresford, and the gallant admiral's own utterances leave little to be desired in the way of directness and candour. In his recent Glasgow speech "Charlie" had some stinging things to say about the Marconi happenings, while the legitimate activities of Ministers came in for equally scathing condemnation. The noble lord is firmly convinced that "to turn the Government out" is the bounden duty of patriotic citizens, for is it not "the most rotten, discredited and unfortunate Government that any country has even been cursed with"? Curiously enough, every Government we remember has—in the eyes of its critics—been tarred with precisely the same brush!

May It Please the Court.

Mr. McKenna has assured the House of Commons that never in their wildest moments have the Government dreamt of supplying rifles to constables on strike duty, "nor was it intended that they should be used in a military sense." Whether this latter assurance is meant to apply to the constables or the rifles we are unable to say, but the phrase is the thing. Should criminal proceedings arise from the seizure of small arms in a Hammersmith stable, or on a Dublin quay, it will be "up to" counsel for the defence to show that the lethal weapons were never intended for use "in a military sense," and that the importers are therefore guiltless of sedition—"in a police court sense."

A Slump in Baptists.

The annual report of the Baptist Union Council for the year 1912 does not speak very favourably of the proselytising effect of Dr. Clifford's and his stalwarts' methods. Compared with 1911, the Baptist Union Church members have decreased by 2,231, Sunday-school scholars by 4,924, and Local Preachers by 87. Is this a sign of the times? Does it indicate that the growing feeling against Party in politics is accompanied by a similar impatience with the puerile divisions which separate the numerous religious creeds?

Money Changers At Boulogne.

Here is a grievance of travellers which we shall be glad to see the South Eastern remedy. At the railway restaurant at Boulogne, payment made for meals in English money is only received at 1 fr. 20 c. to the shilling, or 24 fr. to the sovereign, whereas the fair exchange is 25 fr. To mulct travellers to the extent of 5 c. in the shilling or 1 fr. in the sovereign is a process for which we feel sure the South Eastern Railway Company is not officially responsible.

Official Answers.

Our appeal to a public-spirited Member of Parliament to champion the cause of the children was promptly responded to by Mr. R. A. Cooper, the energetic Member for Walsall. In the House the other day he interrogated Mr. Buxton on the instruction that the rule requiring the installation of a sufficient number of children's life-jackets should not be enforced, on the ground of the alleged impossibility of shipowners complying with it, despite the official admission that two types of such jackets had been approved. Mr. Buxton, who is an adept at the art of "answering" questions in the ministerial way, replied that this instruction was of a preliminary character only, and would be followed by another in due course. The President asserts that at the time he issued it there was good reason for thinking that shipowners could not obtain sufficient supplies. But surely that was no reason for abrogating so vitally necessary a rule. The common-sense plan would have been to tell officials quietly not to initiate prosecutions in cases where there was reasonable ground for believing that failure to instal the life-saving devices was due to the inability of makers to supply them. As a matter of fact, every practical man in such matters could have told Mr. Buxton where to obtain practically unlimited supplies of the jackets.

The Milton Regis Scandal.

It will probably have been noticed that the effect of our recent criticisms of the action of the Milton Regis District Council after an ex-member of the Whitstable Council had alleged that their surveyor, Mr. Wharlow, had paid him money corruptly to influence his votes in a contract, has resulted in the prosecution of both these men, and their committal for trial. The Milton Regis Council did their best to make things all cosy for Mr. Wharlow, but we protested that it was obviously a case which should not be allowed to end in that way. The matter is now *sub judice*, and there for the present we must leave it.

Footle at Faversham.

Talking of surveyors, they have a funny one at Faversham—Mr. S. P. Andrews, who is at present in receipt, or on the way to, of the maximum salary of £250 fixed by the terms of his engagement. Seeing an advertisement for a surveyor, at a larger salary, under another Council, Mr. Andrews pulls himself up to his full height, regards himself in the mirror, and then sits down to write informing the Council that the advertisement is one for which he has been expectantly waiting for years, that it has put him in a quandary, and that his best way out of the difficulty is for the Council to compensate him for not applying for the job which he might not get. Whereupon the Finance Committee assemble and vote him £300 a year for two years on his undertaking to remain with the Council for that period. The Council, however, have decided that instead of the salary being increased the Surveyor is to have two honorariums of £50 a year—why, heaven alone knows—and as the merry Andrews is to have another £300 honorarium in a few months for carrying out a local sewage scheme, he appears to be doing rather well; certainly rather better than many of the ratepayers of Faversham, who think a joke can be carried a bit too far.

Military Mock Modesty.

Why do the military authorities consider it a privilege for soldiers to be allowed to wear plain clothes when off duty? This is the only country in which both officers and men seem to be ashamed of their uniforms. If the fair sex were not so busy fighting for votes, they might be trusted to explain to Tommy that he looks much better in purple and gold than in a slop suit.

Our Fourth Cricket Contest begins this week. More Record Cash Prizes. See page 947.

Dubious Doctrine.

Mr. Justice Ridley has long enjoyed a reputation for weird legal pronouncements. At the recent Devon Assizes, he tried a man who, while under the influence of drink, had inflicted brutal injuries upon his wife, thereby causing her death. This crime might, of course, have been either murder or manslaughter, according to the circumstances, and many judges would have advised the jury to convict the miscreant of the major felony. Not so Mr. Justice Ridley. In summing up the case, his lordship held that there was no "intent to kill," and he further directed the jury "that the case must be treated very much the same as if the woman had not died." Our humble judgment would have suggested that the victim's death made all the difference. Had she lived, her brutal husband's crime might have been that of unlawful wounding, but it was converted by her death into manslaughter, at least, to say nothing of the time-honoured doctrine of law that "a man is presumed to intend the natural consequences of his own unlawful acts."

A Pernicious Practice.

A case recently heard at a London police court serves to direct attention to a somewhat objectionable practice which apparently finds favour with the Metropolitan police. An old man was charged with obtaining half-a-crown from a detective sergeant by false pretences. The prisoner had put the sergeant on the track of an alleged burglar, and had received two-and-sixpence for his information. Subsequent investigations convinced the detective that his spy had "sold him a pup," and he accordingly prosecuted the luckless offender with the utmost rigour of the law. The officer naïvely admitted that he had given the man money on several occasions, "never with any advantage to the public service." As an encouragement to lead a more honest life, and, we presume, as a fitting recognition of past services, prisoner was sent to gaol for two months. We are bound to think this sentence unjustifiably severe. Officers of the law should look with a lenient eye upon the cads of their own creation.

A Lucky Prisoner.

George Harris, a Tottenham labourer, was recently apprehended on a charge of "wandering without visible means of subsistence." He was sleeping in an out-house, and it was not till his arrival at the station that the police found two pennies in his possession. This belated discovery proved the man's salvation, for the magistrate held that he could not convict a man who bore upon his person a single coin of the realm. We presume that had Harris possessed a sovereign, his innocence would have been even more completely vindicated. In other words, if a man lie up in a shed because he is too poor to afford a better lodging, he is worthy of condign punishment. but if he sleeps on his neighbour's doorstep for sheer devilment or with nefarious design, he merits instant acquittal. Oh, beauteous law!

A Placid Parson.

A Bangor parson has been severely lecturing his flock upon the wickedness of grumbling at the weather, which is, he declares, a heavenly gift Come rain, fog, snow, hail, sleet, thunder, lightning, or even an earthquake, and the reverend gentleman will be submissively content. In meteorological as in all other earthly circumstances, what can't be cured must be endured, and there is a measure of wisdom, and even of philosophy, in the parson's attitude. He will, at any rate, escape the embarrassment of one of his ministerial brethren. who prayed for a wet Derby Day, in complete forgetfulness of the fact that his choir's outing was fixed for the same date!

Callous Councils.

There is growing dissatisfaction with the way in which the Shops Act is being administered by certain local authorities. The poorest class of shopkeepers are the worst sufferers, and to many of these the compulsory half-holiday means an irreparable financial loss. In many cases, of course, the local authority is not primarily responsible for the compulsory closing, but county and borough councils are allowed a wide discretion under the Act, particularly in the matter of "closing orders." These orders are intended to apply to trades which do not come within the general provisions of the Act, and corporations making such regulations are empowered to insert conditions which may appear desirable in the interests of justice and fair play. It is regrettable that, in all too many instances, closing orders have been made without adequate inquiry and with lamentable disregard of the interests of poor traders. The remedy lies with the ratepayers, who should keep a vigilant eye on this important department of municipal reform.

Mr. Samuel's Generosity!

One of our readers, who happens to be a professional "Turf Accountant," tells us that he recently received a wire reading as follows: "Lay Drinmore at to-day's price." As the message came from a very well-inspired source, he acted upon it—only to discover that he had made a big mistake, and that the original wire read "Don't lay Drinmore at to-day's price." Correspondence with the Postmaster-General ensued, and in the end our friend was informed that "the officer in fault has been suitably admonished for the want of care shown, and the inconvenience occasioned is much regretted. In the circumstances an order for the refundment of the sum *paid for the telegram* is enclosed." Like the clergyman who contributed to our last issue, our correspondent thinks it quite justifiable in certain circumstances to use a mild expletive.

Set a Thief to Catch a—Lawyer.

Apart from the tinge of humour, it was certainly an ungracious act on the part of a light-fingered gentleman to relieve Mr. Purcell, the well-known criminal barrister, of his watch. The fraternity undoubtedly have reason to be grateful to the learned gentleman. With the assistance of his suave and versatile tongue, and thanks to the glibness with which he rolls off oily and unctuous platitudes. many alleged wrongdoers have been saved from long terms of imprisonment. By the way, we learn that the watch in question was presented by a grateful client; it would be interesting to know what crime the donor was alleged to have committed. Perhaps, on reflection, the facetious pickpocket will relent, and return the watch by registered post to 1, Middle Temple Lane.

No Baths—By Order.

Without prejudice to the popular notion that cleanliness is next to godliness, the L.C.C. Education Committee have refused their countenance to a proposal that dirty little boys and girls should be officially washed before beginning the Scripture lesson. After a prolonged debate, in which the washers marshalled their arguments with consummate skill, the non-washers, headed by Mr. Anderton, carried the day. It must not be supposed that the majority consisted of devotees of dirt. Their opposition was doubtless based upon a sincere dislike of official intermeddling with the details of daily life. We have considerable sympathy with this sentiment, but in a matter so intimately affecting the comfort and health of the little ones, we fancy the "ayes" should have had it.

"Bullets"—Over 5,100 CASH and Other Valuable Prizes Now Offered Weekly.

Rough on the Undertaker.

A Leyton undertaker recently furnished an elaborate and costly funeral for an old gipsy. His bill was not paid, and he therefore brought an action in the Bow County Court against the executors of the deceased. He stated that he had been called upon to supply a lead and elm shell and an oak coffin with four brass handles, and also to provide four bearers at a cost of ten shillings each. For these amenities he proposed to charge £24. Having regard to the costly nature of the items, it surely cannot be held that this charge was unduly heavy. The learned judge, however, refused to allow the plaintiff more than £12, on the ground that "executors could only be liable to pay the expenses of a reasonable funeral." With great respect to his Honour, we should have thought executors, like everyone else, were liable to pay for what they ordered. This decision was surely hard upon the undertaker, who probably had no means of knowing his customers' pecuniary position. He had merely effected the express orders of the deceased's relatives, and to rob him of his just payment was manifestly unfair.

Eight Shillings a Week.

There are occasions when the local newspaper reporter is strangely reticent. Recently two young married women were charged at Enfield with stealing a few sweets and a packet of sugar from the factory in which they worked. The smallness of wages given by an employer is certainly no excuse for robbing him, but we are a little curious about the name of the firm in this case, when the reporter writes that "A representative of the firm stated that the women were employed in the bakehouse, and worked 55½ hours each per week, earning 8s. wages." Why this anxiety to keep employers out of the papers? The payment of such wages for such hours is a flagrant temptation to dishonesty, and it looks as though some such view was present in the minds of the magistrates when they "cautioned the two women and bound them over."

Forcible Tailoring.

Two tailors at Melbourne, Derbyshire, have been fined forty shillings and costs for dragging a passer-by into their shop and detaining him by force while they measured him for a suit of clothes against his will. Even in these severely competitive days, such press-gang methods of securing custom must, of course, be sternly repressed, but we doubt if a fine was exactly the fitting penalty. The magistrates would have better served the ends of justice by ordering the over-zealous salesmen to present their victim with three brand new suits of clothes, free gratis, and for nothing. There is much need for greater elasticity in the penalties of the law. Meanwhile, the Melbourne gentlemen should remember that policemen are the only people who are permitted to thrust their professional attentions upon an unwilling public.

Dividends and Wreaths.

When the friends and family of a deceased lady buried at Tower Hamlets Cemetery, Mile End, bought an artificial wreath in a glass case and some of them entered the cemetery with the object of laying it upon the grave, they were informed that they could not be allowed to do so unless they paid 1s. 6d. They paid the money, and thought this at any rate would be the end of it, but on examining the receipt found that the permission was for one year only. Eighteenpence will have to be paid every year while the wreath remains on the grave. But we suppose much conscience must not be expected from cemetery companies.

Catch-as-Catch-Can.

Taking one consideration with another, it does not strike us that P.C. Garner, 969K, stationed at West Ham, is the ideal policeman Chief Constable Bruce of Dunfermline is looking for. As it was very difficult to get evidence in a street-betting case otherwise, it occurred to the ingenious Garner to induce a man who lodged at his house to write out a betting slip, and (as *he* says) he then handed it with a shilling for betting purposes to another man, unidentified, to give to the suspect. On the bookmaker's arrest it was found, much to his surprise (as *he* says) in his pocket, where he suggests Garner or Garner's agent surreptitiously put it. It is a small matter that the case was dismissed as "suspicious"; but what if Garner's superior officers set him to track down a suspected murderer?

Pit Cage Disasters.

As illustrating our recent article, we note that "a serious cage accident occurred at the Langtree Pit, Standish, near Wigan. A cage containing twelve men was going down the shaft and an empty cage was coming up when the capping of the ascending cage was drawn, with the result that it collided with the one containing the men. Four of them were found to be more or less seriously injured, two having sustained broken legs"; which, as things are, was lucky, for it is a miracle they didn't sustain broken heads or broken necks. The number of pit-cage accidents, fatal and otherwise, every year is enormous. Pit-owners are well aware of safety appliances and the Home Office should obtain power to compel their use.

Horrors!

Stiggins has turned up at Plymouth. Writing to a local paper, he states that on a recent Saturday afternoon, while walking across the Hoe, he happened to look over the wall on to the beach below, and was disgusted to see fifteen or twenty small boys with their feet in the water and their trousers turned up—in some cases "even to their knees." "This," he concludes, "is the sort of thing which makes one nervous of venturing upon the Hoe during the summer months." Once, below the Hoe, we beheld a spectacle even worse; in full sight of all the people, a naked dog was running to and fro and drawing attention to itself by barking!

Biddulph Magistracy.

A few days ago, a collier, named Webb, was going to look after a mare and foal belonging to a Mr. Dixon, and in the bottom of a hedge, "off the footpath," he saw two eggs; he picked them up, but before he had got many yards away a policeman bobbed upon the scene, and subsequently prosecuted the man for theft. Though there was not a scrap of evidence justifying the charge of "trespassing in the plantation for the purpose of stealing," the Biddulph Magistrates fined him 5s. and costs, £1 9s. in all! The fine is unwarrantable and should be remitted. By the way, we notice that the owner of the eggs was a Mr. Heath, and that Heath was the name of one of the magistrates. Any connection?

Eightpence a Mile.

A taxi-driver who quarrelled with his fare as to the best route from St. James's Street to Lincoln's Inn Fields was properly rebuked by the Bow Street magistrate. "The fare and not the driver has the right to say in what direction he should go," quoth the learned cadi. So we should think. To permit the cabby to choose the route would be to set a premium upon the fleecing of travellers in the labyrinth of London's streets. We know some quite expensive routes from Long Acre to Drury Lane.

Another £1,000 Offered for Cricket Forecasts. See page 947.

More Canada.

A Canadian reader tells us of his efforts to participate in Mr. Patrick O'Brien's JOHN BULL Derby Sweep. In the first instance, he posted a letter to Mr. O'Brien from Ontario, with a postal order for five dollars. The letter was returned by the Post Office, minus, however, the money, and although a claim has been put in for its recovery nothing has yet been heard of it. Our correspondent sent a second letter, with a Canadian express money order, which was also returned within a week. Fortunately, however, the money was not this time abstracted. Determined not to be outdone, our reader took a trip to the United States, to post a third letter, which we have no doubt duly arrived. As he says, "Oh, for a Business Government for Canada!"

Cause and Effect.

A correspondent sends us the following:—

Prosecution, Isaacs v. *Chesterton.*

Judge	Justice Phillimore.
Verdict	Guilty.
Sentence	Fine £100 and costs.

Phillimore Estate, Campden Hill, Kensington.

Owner	Justice Phillimore.
Estate Agents	Chesterton and Sons, High Street, Kensington.

Surely, however, to tell a journalist that his work is characterised by "invincible ignorance" is about as severe a sentence as any judge could pass!

OUR SECOND GREAT CRICKET COMPETITION.

MAGNIFICENT SCORING BY THE LADIES.

In our second Mammoth Cricket Contest the £1,000 prize was very nearly won, three competitors correctly forecasting 19 out of the 20 results. A member of the fair sex—besides being included in this trinity—sent in a second coupon, on which there were but two errors. In addition, she is entitled to the special prize of £50 offered to the sender of the most accurate coupon cut from "Mary Bull." She will therefore receive a cheque for £150. The following competitors succeeded in correctly forecasting 19 of the 20 results, and divide the prize of £200, receiving £66 13s. 4d. each:—

Mrs. JENNIE GEORGE,
c/o Mrs. Spencer, 20, Cliff Road, Dovercourt.
Mr. ROBERT BENSON,
3, Buckingham Road, Watford, Herts.
Mr. G. THOMPSON, 17, York Road, Kettering.

The following competitors sent in 18 correct forecasts, and divide the prize of £100, receiving £33 6s. 8d. each:—

Mrs. JENNIE GEORGE,
c o Mrs. Spencer, 20, Cliff Road, Dovercourt.
Mr. H. BROWNE,
165, Hamlet Court Road, Westcliff-on-Sea.
Mr. R. H. SEWELL,
89, Moring Road, Tooting, S.W.

The following competitors sent in 17 correct forecasts, and divide the prize of £75, receiving £18 15s. each:—

Mrs. K. JENNINGS,
59, Eastern Road, Brighton.
Mr. A. E. BLACKBURN,
6, Marsfield View, Goole.
Mr. H. GARRETT,
35, Birdhurst Road, Wandsworth.
Mr. A. NEWSON,
4, William Street, Islington, N.

Although the £1,000 has not been won, there was every prospect of the major prize being secured—for, besides those of the competitors mentioned above, there were many other skilful forecasts, 12 competiors correctly giving the result of all the matches except four, while there were many other coupons sub mitted which contained but five errors.

"John Bull's" Biscuits.

["*Taking the Biscuit*" *has become a classic phrase, expressive of a satirical reward or recognition. In this column we present, in all good humour, the token to such of our contemporaries and others as may have distinguished themselves by some unconventional utterance or act.*]

For asking in connection with the alterations demanded by the Board of Education at the Barton Church Schools: "What practical man would tear out WINDOW PANES *made of* STONE *and replace them with* WOOD? *Yet this is what is being done, and passers-by linger to scoff,"*

THE HULL DAILY MAIL
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For endeavouring to sell a medicine by advertising that it "drives away Nervy Symptoms, gives power of brain and body, LEAVES BEHIND IRRITABILITY, INDIGESTION, NEURALGIA, HYSTERIA, SLEEPLESSNESS, *etc.,"*

Mr. F. THOMPSON (17, Gordon Street, Glasgow)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For publishing a notice to passengers and shippers of goods that: "The Company accept EMPTY *packages for conveyance at the owners' risk only, and will not be responsible for breakage of same* OR THEIR CONTENTS,"

THE DUNDEE AND NEWCASTLE STEAM SHIPPING COMPANY, LIMITED,
TAKE THE BISCUIT.

For announcing in the "Belfast Evening Telegraph" that at the Victoria Hall on June 18th she would "D.V., tell of her wonderful experience during her stay of 14 YEARS WITH HER HUSBAND IN THE LONG GRASS *of South Africa,"*

MRS. DAN CRAWFORD
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For heading a paragraph "Guards PETROL *Ascot Course as Precaution against Suffragette Attacks,"*

THE EVENING TELEGRAPH AND POST (Dundee)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

*For stating that: "The (Kensington) Council have decided to place an order for a new roller with the firm of Aveling and Porter, who supplied the one now reported by the borough engineer to be '*WORN OUT*' 21 YEARS AGO,"*

THE CONTRACT JOURNAL
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that Queen Victoria "liked to visit NETLEY *Hospital and pin medals upon the soldiers who* DIED *in* SOUTH AFRICA,"

THE SOUTHERN DAILY ECHO
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating in a paragraph regarding the Kaiser's Jubilee, that he has not "given any pardon to political prisoners or those sentenced for LESS MAJESTIC *offences,"*

THE EVENING EXPRESS (Liverpool)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating in a leaderette on the work of the Board of Guardians for the relief of the Jewish poor of Manchester, that Mr. Langdon "advocated that a special fund be formed in order to provide more liberally for the families of WIDOWS. *Such a fund would often enable the parent to keep* HIS CHILDREN *at school whereas at present* HE *may be forced to turn the* CHILD *too soon into a wage-earner,"*

THE MANCHESTER GUARDIAN,
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

HALF-A-CROWN FOR EVERY "BISCUIT" PUBLISHED.

We give 2s. 6d. *to the sender of every "Biscuit" published. Should the same item be forwarded by several competitors, preference will be given to the one whose letter is first opened. In forwarding newspaper cuttings, sufficient must be sent to identify the name of the paper and date of issue. Envelopes must be addressed to "The Biscuit Editor."*

Had your Fountain Pen yet? See Our Great Offer on page 949.

MARCONI SWAN SONG.

MAGNIFICENT MANŒUVRES—GORGEOUS MAKE-BELIEVE—AND A HAPPY END.

The curtain has been rung down on the last act of the screaming Marconi farce. The closing scenes were brilliantly successful from a Party standpoint. Nothing could have been nicer. No actor missed his cue. Each man was at the top of his form. All went merrily as a marriage bell. So clear the stage, my masters, and, for a spell, let us—think.

What has happened? We must rub our eyes hard. They are still dazzled with the limelight and the scenic shocks. We must accustom them to the drab light of a workaday world. Big words and ugly ones are in our ears, stinging phrases and stunning epithets. Corruption—impropriety—gambling—punting—secret transactions—crooked deals, and the rest. Our organs of hearing have suffered rude battery. They must be attuned to catch the still small voice of sweet reason and common-sense.

ACT I.

Let us reconstruct the plot briefly and in bald outline, for we have sketched it before. There was an Attorney-General and a Chancellor and a Chief Whip, and the three were friends—and the first of them had a brother who was "in the swim." Quoth the Attorney to the Chancellor, "I know a good thing."

Whereupon the Chancellor was glad—for he had struck some uncommonly bad ones. The Chief Whip was in similar case. Eagerly they cried, "Is it safe and is it straight?"—for all three were honest men.

They accepted the Attorney's assurance, for they knew him—as all men know him—to be the soul of honour. Then they fluttered—timidly at first but bolder by degrees.

ACT II.

Thus in the beginning. There followed the old, old story of the scandal machine. City chatterers and Fleet Street gossipers sniffed a sensation. "S-sh!" whispered one, "Lloyd George has bought Marconis." "He got the tip from Rufus," purred a second. "Rufus got it from Godfrey," hissed a third, and presently a swift-footed prophet of evil rushed hot foot to Fleet Street shouting, "Ministers Gamble in Marconis," "Chancellor's Corrupt Deal," "Attorney-General's Blazing Indiscretion," and so forth, like any strident newsboy who makes the night air hideous with his catch-penny cat-calls.

ACT III.

But there was more than this. There is a strange game played in the neighbourhood of Westminster, yclept, "Ins and Outs." It is a simple game. When there are more "ins" than "outs," the "ins" stop in and when there are more "outs" than "ins," the "ins" go out and the "outs" come in. Childish sport enough, but mightily popular with lawyers and parsons and all manner of staid persons.

When the first words "corruption," "gambling," "speculation," and the like came hurtling through the air, some wanted to finish their game in peace and quietness—these were the "ins"—but others—certain of the "outs"—shouted with glee, for, said they, "This is where *we* come in!"

The Attorney alone would have been tolerably safe—for he has a way with him. Few would have desired to cast a stone at the genial person of the Chief Whip. But there between them was the challenging form of the Chancellor—stern fighter, hard hitter, who never yet had asked or given quarter. He had enjoyed his hours of gloating triumph—'twas now the turn of his oft-vanquished foes, and certain of them were filled with an unholy desire to hit him, hard and often, and right between the eyes. To appease the more violent, a fight was arranged, but it was a sham fight, because no one was interested except the fighters themselves. 'Twas a mock war, starting with a few "let's pretend" skirmishes and destined to culminate in due course with a stage Sedan. The *mise en scène* was a Select—*i.e.*, a *selected*—Committee, on which the "ins" outnumbered the "outs" by nine to six, for it was written that it should be so on the day of judgment. The farcical history of the sorry business is too fresh—and far too fatuous—to bear recapitulation. None of the realism of the well-staged sham fight was lacking. There were all manner of terrific frontal assaults and skilfully executed flanking movements. There were ambushes in profusion—but they were all duly charted on a map of which both parties had a copy. There were stealthy attacks by night and sudden sallies by day—but everything was worked to time-table and with clockwork precision. No one was hurt. It was never intended to hurt anyone. It was magnificent—but it was not war. It was roaring, romping, rollicking farce.

And now it is over. The footlights are turned out, and the scene-shifters are busy with the properties. The red paint spilled during the encounter—on purpose, of course—has been neatly touched up with a few deft touches of the whitewash brush, again on purpose. The lawyers were in at the death. The erring Attorney was gently chid to slow forensic music, and the crest-fallen Chancellor was softly cheered by the dulcet notes of the legal lyre. One lawyer moved the vote of "censure," another lawyer moved the amendment of "confidence"; a third lawyer chirped in with an amending amendment—and all was well.

The Chief Whip was beyond the reach of such sylph-like deductions, where may all good luck attend him. All, all is over. 'Twas brave sport, my masters!

THE AUDIENCE.

The play was followed with keen relish by the audience—the great British public—but they never believed in it. It was great sport—but it was only sport. Club loungers and other idle people read every line of the newspaper reports with avidity, but they would have dropped their news-sheets like hot cakes and pulled themselves together in a trice if you had whispered a straight tip for the Derby.

The part they enjoyed most was that played by Mr. Balfour—a ripe and subtle actor, who, upon this occasion surpassed himself in casuistry. "We have, on the one hand," said he, "a Motion of Censure, and, on the other, a Resolution of Confidence. *Why not amalgamate the two,* AND THUS RECORD THE UNANIMOUS OPINION OF THE HOUSE?" It was most delicious fun, and the audience simply rocked in laughter when the Treasury Bench took it seriously, and after vainly endeavouring for several minutes to dovetail the round and the square things into one harmonious whole, "Gave it up"! Was ever such frolic seen at the Westminster playhouse?

THE MORAL.

We give this in the words of the *Pall Mall Gazette*:—

> The day will come long hence when the system by which parties seek to devour each other will be swept away as an obsolete and barbarous usage corresponding in the moral sphere to cannibalism in the physical. Envenomed partisans eager at any price to destroy the personal honour, as well as the public purposes of political opponents, may then be looked back upon by historians as a sort of unconscious Borgias, whose moral methods were little less execrable than the sinister use of arsenic or aconite.

That day is coming fast.

A HOTBED OF CORRUPTION.

BLEEDING THE RATEPAYERS WHITE.

In June, 1911, the Carmarthenshire County Council were desirous of purchasing a quantity of tar pumps, pitch boilers and other road-making machinery—whereby hangs a pretty tale.

Mr. B. D. Healey is the Secretary of the Standard Appliances Company, an engineering firm at Verulam Street, Liverpool. On June 16th, 1911, this gentleman received an harmless-looking business communication from Mr. William Isaac, of the Old Foundry, Carmarthen. Mr. Isaac "had several inquiries on hand" for tar boilers and pumps and "had been recommended to consult" Mr. Healey. Mr. Healey was requested to state "very best trade terms" and he was temptingly assured that quite a large order might follow upon a favourable quotation.

The Standard Appliances Company had already tendered to the Carmarthenshire County Council for the supply of a precisely similar set of machinery. Mr. Healey has had lengthy experience of municipal methods, and he at once discerned the covert connection between Mr Isaac's inquiries and his own tender to the Council. He knew moreover the kind of reply which would appeal to Mr. Isaac. Anxious not to lose a valuable order, he at once wrote promising Isaac a commission of £5 on any orders which might be secured through his agency.

By the same post Mr. Healey wrote to the Local Government Board. He pointed out that after tendering direct to the County Council he had been insidiously approached by a Carmarthen dealer who was doubtless desirous of buying cheap from the Standard Appliances Company in order to sell dear to the Carmarthenshire ratepayers. The Company through their Secretary were thus virtually compelled to write off five pounds of their prospective profit as commission to the grasping middleman.

In a letter dated June 21st, 1911, Isaac threw off all disguise and went for the promised commission like the proverbial bull at a gate. The letter is in our possession. It is signed—as indeed are all the other communications from the "Old Foundry"—"per pro William Isaac—G. B. Isaac." We cull the following choice extract:—

> I am engineer and contractor to the County Council and have been asked to quote for these appliances. However, if you'll reply by return, I'll do all I can for you to secure the order, and if you prefer it, to have it sent from the Council Offices. I might tell you privately that Messrs. —— and Co., London, are quoting the Council, but I think I can do the "necessary" and secure you the order if you'll reply by return.

Mr. Healey did "reply by return"—breaking off negotiations. The extortionate Isaac was now demanding £5 per specification—a levy which would have rendered the transaction almost worthless to the Standard Appliances Company. In the end the Company received a good order without the intervention of Isaac. Apparently, the goods supplied gave complete satisfaction to the Council; for in December, 1911, Mr. Healey received a courteous note from the County Surveyor of Carmarthenshire—Mr. R. W. Jones, C.E.—asking for a new catalogue and mentioning that the Council were again contemplating extensive purchases of road-making plant. In the same envelope with this letter was the following memo., written upon a sheet of the Carmarthenshire Council's official notepaper and marked "Private"—as well it might be:

> Through my endeavours you had a fairly good order this year both from the Eastern and Western Divisions without the intervention of agents. You may now grant some Agent's commission on same. Wishing you the compliments of the season,—Yours faithfully, R.W.J.

Was there ever a more shameless proceeding on the part of a public official? A fitting climax to the sorry tale of municipal corruption which we have unfolded! But what of the Local Government Board? Conclusive evidence of the foregoing facts has been in the Board's pigeon-holes for upwards of twelve months, yet they have stubbornly refused to take action. These be the official guardians of municipal purity. Oh, for a Business Board!

By the way, what has become of the Secret Commissions and Bribery Prevention League? The officials of that body appear—at any rate, in its early stages; they are silent now—to have talked a good deal, but to have done practically nothing to put an end to these commercial scandals.

A CRUEL MISAPPREHENSION.

NEEDLESS PRISON AND POVERTY FOR OUT-OF-WORKS.

Many a poor devil standing in the dock has pleaded that he was unable to obtain work, and had either to steal or starve. The reasons given for the unemployment are many and varied—often it is that he has been convicted before, and thus having lost his character, no one will employ him; or perhaps, being of good character but having some physical infirmity, he has not a fair chance in the race. Now a new excuse has been raised, and one of a somewhat alarming character. Recently, at the Guildhall, Henry Docksey, a man of good physique, excellent character, and an ex-soldier of twelve years' service, was charged with stealing a bundle of cigars from a shop. The assistant did not wish to charge him, and merely asked Docksey to give them back; this the culprit politely but firmly declined to do, demanding that he should be locked up. At the police-station the poor fellow collapsed, and it transpired that he had been walking about for two days and nights without food. His explanation of his pitiable plight was that some time ago he had the misfortune to break his leg, and during the time he was in hospital his Insurance contributions got in arrear. On this account, and on this account alone, people declined to employ him. The Act is complicated, but it is perfectly clear that an employer is bound to stamp a workman's card only for the time he is in his employment, and is in no way liable for any arrears. We have before endeavoured to correct this widespread and cruel misapprehension

WANGLING A WARDER.

DIRTY WORK AT THE WAR OFFICE.

A barefaced attempt to bluff a Military Prison warder out of his pension has just been brought to our notice, and but for the efforts of Mr. Macmaster, M.P., the member of Parliament for the constituency in which the man lives, we have no doubt that it would have succeeded. The facts of the case are briefly as follows:—Mr. E. R. Campling was a Military Prison warder for 13 years, and during the whole of that time no fault was found with either his conduct or his ability. Suddenly he was discharged—the reason, according to a War Office paper now before us, being "reduction of staff." The man's conduct sheet is signed by Lt.-Col. C. Daniel, and from this official document we learn that Campling's conduct during his long service was "satisfactory," while for performance of work he gained only the remark of "fair." This document, of course, would be in the hands of the War Office authorities immediately on the man's discharge, and we think it quite possible that it was on account of it that he had trouble to get what was his due.

We should very much like to know how Col. Daniel reconciles his two awards. Surely if a man's conduct was satisfactory, his work must have been!

FURNITURE PURCHASERS, BEWARE!

A WARNING TO YOUNG MARRIED COUPLES.

We have received many bitter complaints, mostly from young married couples, of having been deprived of hard-earned savings by a particularly astute form of fraud which unfortunately is becoming very common. Thinking they can obtain better value by purchasing second-hand furniture, they fall into a trap which often takes the shape of an advertisement such as:—"Gentleman going abroad must dispose of the contents of his beautifully-furnished flat at a great sacrifice."

The couple inspect the furniture and a bargain is often struck. Shortly after the goods are installed in the new home a peremptory notice from a furnishing company is received, stating that unless all arrears of instalments are paid forthwith the furniture will be removed. The poor unsophisticated couple then find that they either have to pay for the goods again, or lose them. When buying furniture from private individuals, purchasers would be well advised to insist upon seeing the receipts, or obtaining other satisfactory evidence as to the ownership.

Another £1,000 Offered for Cricket Forecasts. See page 947.

FUDGE IN A FUNK.

POLICE OUTRAGE UPON WOMAN'S HONOUR.

On March 3rd last, Morris Williams and Martha Protheroe, an engaged couple of Treherbert, South Wales, stood in the dock at the Ton Pentre Police Court to answer a charge of improper conduct in a public place. P.S. Fudge, who had arrested the defendants on a piece of vacant ground near the Taff Vale Railway, gave a circumstantial account of their alleged offence, stating that he had disguised and concealed himself for the purpose of keeping them under close observation. The police-sergeant's evidence was apparently uncorroborated. Both prisoners stoutly maintained their innocence of the odious charge, Williams declaring that he was standing arm in arm with his sweetheart when the policeman came on the scene, and that no misconduct whatever had taken place between them.

The Stipendiary Magistrate, Mr. D. Lleufer Thomas, appears to have unreservedly accepted the police officer's story, but in view of the fact that the couple were contemplating matrimony he agreed to adjourn the case for three months. Defendants were given pretty clearly to understand that unless their marriage was solemnised within the prescribed period it would go hard with them.

To drive people into wedlock at the point of the sword of justice is surely no part of a magistrate's prerogative, but we will not stay to quarrel with this unwarrantable exercise of judicial authority. Aided by a competent solicitor, they at once commenced preparations for an adequate defence when next the case should be called at the Police Court. Both the accused had long enjoyed a high reputation for respectability, and a number of credible witnesses to character were readily obtained. Moreover, the female defendant voluntarily submitted herself to medical examination—with the happiest result. The doctor's certificate, which is in our possession, proves the impossibility of the police-sergeant's tale. Long ere the appointed day the defendants' plans were complete, but there was a surprise in store. P.S. Fudge had apparently declined to face the music. On May 24th, two days before the appointed hearing, the police charges were withdrawn. After putting the parties to all manner of trouble and expense—and, worse still, besmirching their fair fame with the stain of criminal proceedings—the police beat a cowardly and ignominious retreat rather than face their victims in fair and open trial.

But for their deservedly high reputation, the publicity given to the earlier proceedings might have done both defendants irreparable harm. A plain duty remains to the Stipendiary Magistrate. He should at once declare from his seat on the Bench that in his judgment the parties were innocent of the serious charge preferred against them by P.S. Fudge. If he does not believe them innocent he was guilty of a misfeasance of public duty in permitting the prosecution to be withdrawn. It is a monstrous thing that the police should be permitted to make random charges against persons of good character and then to escape responsibility by a shuffling and underhand withdrawal of their baseless accusations. The abandonment of the prosecution should have been attended with every circumstance of publicity which marked the earlier proceedings.

We leave it to Mr. D. Lleufer Thomas to make the only reparation possible for the wrong done to the honour of a virtuous woman and to the fair name of a clean-living citizen

"A DOGGY DODGER."

FURTHER COMPLAINTS CONCERNING COOMBS.

Coombs, the travelling doggy dodger referred to in our issue of last week, whose present address is Palladur House, Shaftesbury, has complied with our request and returned our reader her 25s. We have written him with reference to several other long-standing claims, and are looking forward to their settlement forthwith. In the meantime, we warn all our readers to have nothing to do with this humbug. Another *rôle* of his is that of musical composer. "Love, the Conqueror," is his "latest song," and this he offers at 1s. 7d. a copy to those who buy his dogs.

OPPRESSION OF THE POOR.

SOME MORE HARD CASES FROM NOTTINGHAM.

A Nottingham correspondent, in endorsing our recent strictures upon the methods of some of the local bailiffs, says that there are a great many cases of dirty and illegal practice in the lace town. These oppressors of the poor are under no effective supervision, and will do any dirty work for money. He gives us many instances from his own knowledge—such as a poor woman, who openly left a cottage owing half a week's rent, having her goods distrained on at her new address for this and an added week's money by two men, one of whom held no certificate. A certain member of the fraternity, we are told, is notorious for his bullying methods, his favourite practice being to gain entrance by forcing window-catches or cellar-gratings, and then to flourish a policeman's truncheon before unprotected women. Some local landlords illegally refuse to accept notice from a tenant who owes rent; and the poor, ignorant wretch, who cannot pay, is thus prevented from moving into cheaper quarters. The law allows the bailiff's man 4s. 6d. a day as possession money—ample for the class of individual who undertakes the work—but many of them boast that they can turn it into a sovereign. One of the means of doing this is to prevent a tenant paying, moving the goods as quickly as possible, and thus obtaining the commission allowed by the auctioneer.

We are afraid that Nottingham has no moncpoly of these scandals.

TERRORISING TRADE UNIONISTS.

SHABBY SUBTERFUGES FOR SUPPORTING DYING "DAILY."

The Trade Union officials who, for some reason known only to themselves, are diverting the funds of their members into the coffers of the *Daily Citizen* (that the bulk of these involuntary supporters of the journal are convinced that its continued existence is of no importance to the Trade Union movement is obvious, from the fact that an infinitesimal portion only of them are sufficiently interested to choose it in preference to its contemporaries), are growing bolder by their victims' tame acquiescence in the very questionable "levies" which have been made to keep the publication alive. The latest efforts on its behalf are being made by some of the Alexandria (Scotland) Branch of the Amalgamated Society of Dyers, Bleachers, Finishers and Kindred Trades, who have issued this astounding circular to the members:—

> The following resolution has been decided by the Executive Council of the above Society:—That a Levy of 3d. each be made upon all Members (except Juveniles), such Levy to be paid on or before 1st July, 1913, for the purpose of assisting to secure the success of the *Daily Citizen*. The Branch Committee request that any Member objecting to the same must hand in *note* in writing along with number of Contribution Card not later than Monday, 23rd July, 1913. Any member failing to do so, Levy will be imposed against him as stated from 1st July, 1913.

For audacity this would be hard to beat in the annals of Trade Unionism. As will be seen elsewhere, even were the majority of members to vote for the levy, it would, in all probability, be held by the Courts of Law to be an illegal impost; but in this case, it will be observed that there is not even the excuse of a ballot to support the doubtful charge—whilst anyone who resents this impertinent disposal of his money by a handful of jacks-in-office is required to lodge an objection in writing, with all identifying particulars—with the probable result that he would be a marked man, and ostracised until he was driven out of the Society, and thus deprived of the benefit of any payments he had made since taking up membership. Is it not time that the law was put in motion to prevent this mean terrorism? Unfortunately, any proceedings would probably be of an expensive character, as more money of the members would doubtless be wasted in fighting the action to the final tribunal. The various high-handed persons, "drest in a little brief authority," who are betraying their trust in the way we have described are, no doubt, fully aware of this, and relying upon it preventing poor working men from obtaining justice.

More Mammoth Cricket Prizes Won. For Winners see page 925.

TRICKERY AND TRUCULENCE.

SHADY TALLYMEN'S SHAMELESS TRICK.

We have repeatedly warned our readers against the artifices of disreputable back door touts, who first inveigle guileless householders into ordering unwanted goods, and then proceed to enforce payment with iron-handed severity. It appears that the town of Grimsby is infested with these gentry. One of our readers has had an experience which he will not soon forget and which may serve as a warning to others who are tempted by the glitter of the packman's pinchbeck wares.

He first ordered a fireguard and some chairs from an importunate canvasser. The goods were of fair quality and were paid for in due course and according to agreement. As soon as this transaction was complete the canvasser called upon our correspondent's wife and persuaded her to order a bedstead at a cost of four pounds. It was arranged that the bedstead should be delivered at once and that the woman should discharge her liability at the rate of one shilling per week. So "easy" were the terms offered and so glittering the proffered bait that the deal was clinched without difficulty. The husband, a casual labourer in necessitous circumstances, knew nothing of the matter till the bedstead was delivered. He was away from home at the time of the canvasser's call, and his wife, like many other thoughtless women, had pledged his credit without his knowledge and without a vestige of authority so to do.

The man's first impulse was to return the bedstead rather than incur a liability which he might be unable punctually to discharge. The dealers scouted the suggestion and insisted that he should retain it according to the wife's agreement. For some time the canvasser called for the weekly shilling, which was punctually paid. Then the husband fell ill and lost his employment. At his next visit the wife tendered the collector sixpence; she could do no more. The man refused to take the money and he did not call again. A few weeks later the husband, who was still without work, was served with a County Court summons at the instance of the furniture firm. He was ordered to pay for the bedstead at the rate of four shillings per month. When next the collector called for his shilling he was armed with the authority of the law.

The unhappy debtor secured a few casual jobs and struggled hard to comply with the order of the Court. He had paid nearly half the amount when a further spell of unemployment left him penniless. The dealers showed no mercy and the Court no compassion. Bailiffs entered the man's humble dwelling, demanding instant payment of debt and costs on pain of immediate distraint. Half-an-hour's grace was given. The money could not be found and the little house was stripped of its furniture to satisfy the greed of unprincipled hucksters and to discharge inflated costs.

The whole matter urgently calls for the intervention of the Legislature. Meanwhile, we urge our readers to keep nondescript tallymen at arm's length and to deal only with firms of good standing.

SWINDLING POOR JACK.

WHAT THE MATE WOULD LIKE TO TELL THE CAPTAIN.

We once more call the attention of shipowners to what we can only term the systematic swindling of their "hands" on the part of some of the captains of small tramp steamers. Here is the latest case brought to our notice: On the arrival recently of a vessel at Genoa the captain allowed one bumboat man only to go on board. Goods to the reputed value of £42 were sold to the men, the captain claiming 25 per cent. commission. At two other ports this procedure was repeated. The officer who brings the case to our notice was prompted to do so not only out of indignation at the crew being swindled, but also because they, while in port, were more or less drunk the whole time, a gross breach of discipline of which the captain—who was drawing his commission on the sale of the liquor—took no notice whatever. Although the voyage lasted seven months, some of the men had only a five-pound note to draw upon discharge! This is a very disreputable and dangerous practice—but, of course it is hopeless to expect that the Board of Trade will do anything to stop it.

MARRIED "OFF THE STRENGTH."

SAD CASE OF A ROYAL ARTILLERY DRIVER

A young lad named Lotinga enlisted for the Artillery at the age of 18 and was posted to the 88th Field Battery. After serving six months he found that a military life was by no means his vocation, so he did what thousands of other lads do—he deserted. After being at large two-and-a-half years, he was captured, taken back to the Battery, tried by Court Martial, and sentenced to 28 days' imprisonment and to continue in the service. During the interval, however, he had got married and had become a father, a step which, had he been a civilian, was not imprudent, as at the time of his capture he was earning £6 10s. a month and his food. After his release from prison, he applied through his Commanding Officer for his discharge from the Army, but the General commanding the district negatived the application. The most the man can earn now is about 7s. a week, and according to present arrangements half of this is stopped for the support of his wife and child. The reader bringing the case to our notice—and we wish to make it perfectly clear that it is not the man himself—asks: "Do you think this right?" Frankly, we do not. And yet under our so-called "voluntary" system, we cannot see any way out of the difficulty. The fact remains that eight out of every ten lads who join the Army do so, not voluntarily, but by compulsion—compulsion of the stomach. An empty belly and empty pocket are the most eloquent of recruiting sergeants. However, if getting married were a passport out of the Service, we should soon have no Army. But what is the use of retaining this man's services? Can it be expected for a moment that he will ever become an efficient soldier? So long as his wife and child are separated from him and practically starving, he will be discontented; and a discontented soldier is inefficient. A well-known regimental officer, writing upon this subject not long ago, says:—"I solemnly declare I have seen scenes of suffering and sorrow, the bare remembrance of which makes my heart ache." When we take into consideration that only about four per cent. of the rank and file are allowed to get married we can well understand what that officer meant. The case we have called attention to is a very sad one, and we hope the Secretary for War will see his way to release the man from further service.

PUNITIVE PURITANS.

MONMOUTH MAGISTRATE'S FANATICAL FURY.

An Abertillery correspondent informs us that at a recent special session of the local police court no less than 80 summonses against the Sunday traders were disposed of. Under the inspiration of one or two magisterial Chadbands, the police have pounced upon the humblest traders with unprecedented ferocity. We are assured that the gallant officers have performed their duties with much skill and cunning, and that several have materially enhanced their prospects of promotion by the triumphant apprehension of ice-cream vendors and purveyors of stick-jaw. It has in some cases been necessary for the worthy constables to array themselves in *mufti* and to loiter for hours in the cover of street doorways in order to obtain complete evidence against certain of the less active evil-doers, but the Abertillery police have been unchecked by difficulties and privations which might well have deterred less estimable officers. Neither can they be accused of allowing sentiment to interfere with the performance of their stern duty, for we understand that aged widows and paralytic old age pensioners have been apprehended with peculiar gusto and prosecuted with the utmost rigour of the law—of Charles II.

We understand that certain of the traders were formerly defended against the accusations of the police with some measure of success. This difficulty has now been overcome by the importation of a Chairman from Newport—a very Daniel come to judgment.

We gather that the small traders of Abertillery will continue to offer strenuous resistance to the decrees of their bullying Bench. Let them take heart of courage from the success of their Bournemouth brethren.

Don't Omit to Cut Out the Pen Coupon This Week on page 3 of Cover.

ATTEMPT TO BRIBE "JOHN BULL."

SHAMELESS PROPOSAL FROM A CLACTON "BULLETS" COMPETITOR—THE LEGALITY AND BONA FIDES OF THE COMPETITION UNASSAILABLE.

In view of a question which has arisen as to the legality of various competitions run by certain of our contemporaries, we desire to emphasize once more the fact that "Bullets" is, beyond any doubt, a genuine skill competition; that *every* coupon is *read twice* by expert judges—whose selections are finally adjudicated upon by the Editor—and that there is nothing in the shape of chance or arbitrary selection in the allocation of the prizes. Any competitor is at liberty at any time, without notice, to come to our office and witness the method of judging, and many have already availed themselves of the opportunity. Here is a letter received a few days ago from a Clapham reader:—

> I beg to thank you for your kindness in allowing me to witness the "Bullets" Judges at work. I left the office satisfied that "Bullets" competitors are judged with every care and fairness that could be desired. The array of so many male adjudicators leaves no doubt in my mind as to every attempt being thoroughly studied.

And here is another—this time from a Hove reader:—

> I can fully endorse Mr. J. Stanley Williams's letter as to the fairness and thoroughness of your "Bullets" Judges, and also as to the absurdity of people thinking that no two prizes ever go to the same person.
>
> Although I have not yet achieved a big prize I can beat Mr. Williams's record in numbers, being now the proud winner of fifteen prizes for "Bullets," and am expecting the Continuous Merit Prize, which I applied for some weeks ago—since which application I have received two more consolation prizes. I may mention I achieved eight consolation prizes in the first weeks I competed.

We could quote scores of letters in the same strain.

As regards the *bona fides* of the Competition, we would remind our readers that we recently offered a reward of £1,000 to anyone who could prove that the judging was not carried on in a genuine, independent manner; and this offer still holds good.

ATTEMPT TO NOBBLE US.

There is, however, apparently one man in the world who does not realise the fact we refer to—Mr. W. B. Dingley, of 11, Meredith Road, Clacton-on-Sea, who, according to the bill-heads on his notepaper, is a Window Ticket, Showcard and Advertisement Writer. Here is what this man had the audacity to write us on May 23rd last:—

> If it is made worth my while I can help to increase the circulation and stimulate the interest in J.B., in this way. I have sent in many "Bullets" during the winter months, and never got a prize, but if I could get the £500 prize, I could do you good, now that our season is just starting, and will be in full swing by July.
>
> I propose if I am the winner of £500 to spend £100 in booming JOHN BULL here, during the season. Our population is 10,000 always, in the season 50,000. I propose to boom you by being interviewed by local press and having two columns of matter. We have two local papers, and I would see that our daily County paper . . . . would have a bit in. Also the papers I advertise in. I am a Chemists' Ticket Writer, and do all my business by mail, through advertisements in . . . . and . . . . Each of these papers would have a paid paragraph about it. I have written articles for the following papers, viz. (here follows a list of various trade journals); each of the above I would see contained a paragraph, and I know I should get a good write up in the . . . . and . . . . which two papers go into all the chemists' in this country.
>
> Also I would give a prize at our Regatta—in fact, I would do all I could to help you, as I want the money to help build up my business. If you think this would help you in gaining new readers, and would care to send me a special marked envelope, I will enter it next week I can promise you strictest secrecy, and will treat same confidential.
>
> I am well known and liked here, and your £500 cheque on view at . . . . in our main sea road, will sell your paper, as it's the first good stationer's from the sea front.

Determined to fix the scoundrel with full responsibility we despatched our Special Commissioner to Clacton-on-Sea for the purpose of identifying him, and making sure that there was no mistake as to the nature of his proposal. We armed our representative with a letter in the following terms:—

> Referring to my letter of the 23rd May, I hereby confirm the suggestion therein made.

Not only did Dingley sign this without hesitation, but, anxious to emphasize his suggestion, he, of his own accord, wrote "further particulars on back," and these repeated the main heads of his programme.

Dingley is described by our Special Commissioner as "a man of about 45 years of age, stands about 5 ft. 6 ins., is pigeon-chested, bottle-shouldered, with deformed hands and black downy fungus growing all over his face. He walks with a stoop, and is without doubt a degenerate." That he is, however, in grim earnest is shown by the fact that he followed up the interview by writing a further letter to the Editor, apparently immediately after our Commissioner had left, going into the most minute details of his nefarious scheme. He gives the following funny attempt at killing two birds with one stone as a sample of the kind of paragraph to be inserted in his local papers:—

> £500 won in a "Bullet" Competition. Our readers will no doubt be interested to know that Mr. W. B. Dingley, the ticket and show-card writer, of 11, Meredith Road, Clacton-on-Sea, has won the first prize in JOHN BULL's "Bullet" Competition. This will no doubt mean a lot to our readers, as well as Mr. Dingley, for he informs me he is going to work out some new ideas in tickets and lay down a large Aerographic plant—a plant which will give the most expensive effects at the smallest cost.

He concludes with this delicious suggestion:—

> I would do my best to carry out any of your ideas. Would a little JOHN BULL dinner party at one of the houses here do you good? With you in the Chair or a rep.? It would be extra for papers, and would mean a free advt., as reporters would be invited.

We think our readers will consider us justified in pillorying this precious rogue, and we will only express the hope that the course we have adopted will act as a warning to anyone who might otherwise have been tempted to emulate his efforts to tamper with what, by reason of its unimpeachable *bona fides*, and recreative and educational character, has established itself as the most popular journalistic competition of the day.

We are happy to know that such conduct as that we have exposed is of very rare occurrence, and that the general body of our "Bullets" competitors consists of honest, industrious individuals, who, apart altogether from the prospect of gaining prizes, take a keen and intelligent delight in their efforts, knowing that whether successful or not they are certain of careful and impartial consideration.

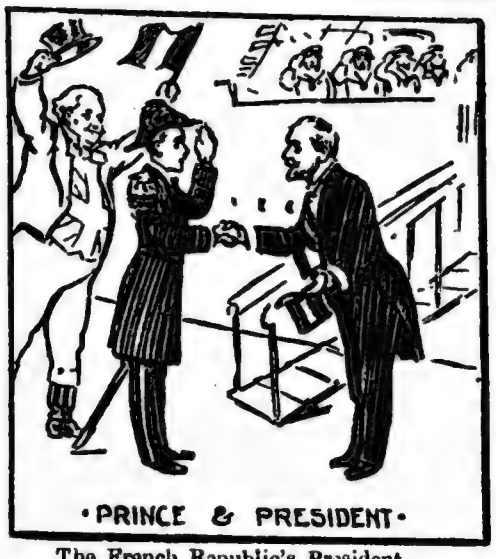
We have hesitated as to whether we ought not to prosecute the man Dingley, but perhaps our exposure will constitute a sufficient punishment. If, however, the authorities think that it is a case which they should take up, the papers in our possession are at their disposal.

"JOHN BULL'S" WEEKLY CINEMA.

BULL-DOGGEREL RHYMES BY "THE BOW-WOW."

• UNDER THE ACT •

Under the Act malingerers find
Some panel doctors wondrous kind—
An aching finger's enough to bring
To obtain a bottle of "Any Damned Thing."



•PRINCE & PRESIDENT•

The French Republic's President
Comes with the friendliest intent;
The Prince of Wales his coming greets
And usual compliments repeats.

• "FOR OR AGAINST?" •

The story, told on many a hearth,
Of Asquith sitting in his bath
Giving instructions what to do
About a Bill, is found untrue.

THE ROMPING ROCKER •

At Ascot Races Tetrarch drew
All eyes, because of his strange hue;
They say he galloped down the course
In looks much like a rocking horse.

• "HOME IN 78" •

Lloyd George and Isaacs, all agree,
Have won "a famous victory"—
Yet their long faces seem to show
They wish those shares at Jericho.

• THE CATS COMMITTEE •

A cats' committee, we should say,
Must be a thing to cause dismay—
Instead of single speakers, all
Together at one moment bawl.

"A SLEEPY SECRETARY."

RAILWAY SERVANTS' OFFICIAL EXONERATED FROM BLAME.

By the courtesy of Mr. J. E. Williams, General Secretary of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants, we are enabled to correct certain statements which we recently made upon the authority of a member of the Society. In our issue of June 7th, under the heading of "A Sleepy Secretary," we criticised the action of a Branch official who had sought to obtain repayment of Insurance benefit advanced to an injured member who subsequently obtained an award under the Workmen's Compensation Act. Our observations were based upon the assertion of the injured man that he was unaware that the Insurance benefit was paid to him by way of loan, but we are now satisfied that he had every opportunity of ascertaining the real nature of the transaction. We relied upon circumstantial evidence which appeared conclusive, and had our information been correct our strictures would have been fully justified. It is clear, however, that we were misled, and we regret that we should have used language which might be construed as a reflection upon the Society or its officials. From additional evidence now in our possession, we are satisfied that the Branch Secretary acted in strict accordance with the Society's rules, and we are assured that he is a sympathetic and vigilant official, and that he indeed went out of his way to be of assistance to the member who complained to us.

A PASSIVE RESISTER.

WHY A WATFORD CITIZEN WON'T PAY RATES.

Mr. Fred Wilkins, of St. James's Road, Watford, is at present a denizen of St. Albans Goal, having been sentenced to twenty-one days' imprisonment for non-payment of rates. Mr. Wilkins' refusal to pay arises neither from obduracy nor from poverty, but from a rankling sense of injustice. He insists that, owing to unfair assessment, he is habitually overcharged, both for Poor and District Rates, and he has determined to go to gaol every time rather than acquiesce in a system so palpably unjust.

We are not sure that we should carry our resentment to the point of martyrdom, but we have considerable sympathy with Mr. Wilkins, and we recognise that he has a strong case for his contention. His business premises are situated in an unfrequented thoroughfare, remote from the main streets, but his assessment for rating purposes is more than 10 per cent. higher than that of the principal trading premises in the town. Such a differentiation is manifestly inequitable, and we trust the Urban Authorities will give the anomaly their immediate attention. They should take the first opportunity of re-assessing all the rateable property in the vicinity at a flat rate and thus remove a crying injustice.

It can be no slight sense of wrong which prompts an intelligent and respectable citizen to resist to the point of imprisonemnt rather than to accede to a demand.

Your Knowledge of Cricket Form may Win you £1,000. New Competition. See page 947.

CORPS' CORPORAL PUNISHMENT.

SERIOUS ALLEGATIONS AGAINST CROYDON TEACHER.

In spite of the fact that the Croydon magistrates dismissed a summons for assault, there are ample grounds for a thorough inquiry into the conduct of a teacher at Princess-Road School. The summons was against Arthur Nelson, of 17, White Horse Road, and the allegations made against him as regards his methods of punishing an eleven-year-old boy named Edward Corps, of 90, Forster Road, are of a very serious nature indeed. These are the facts of the case, and were unrefuted at the magisterial hearing, with the exception of the one suggestion that he was about to tie the boy up when his mother arrived to make inquiries.

On May 30th, according to the boy's story, which, borne out by the testimony of his schoolmates, has strong claims to one's credulity, Nelson was conducting a spelling lesson. The lad made a mistake with one word he was called upon to spell and the teacher sent him for the cane and gave him a blow on each hand. The lad made another mistake and received similar flagellation, being afterwards ordered by the teacher to run once round the playground. When he returned he was again unable to spell a word, and another caning and one more run round the playground was his punishment. This time two boys were sent to watch him, and they said that when he had finished he was very exhausted and could barely speak. The punishment was repeated when he misspelt a word on his return, and after this ordeal his head commenced to ache. Twelve times in all was the punishment imposed, and then the boy was made to stand up in class, though he felt ill as the result of the inhuman treatment. After school was over, he was detained and the teacher produced some string from a cupboard and threatened to tie his hands up, when the boy's mother, who had received news of the affair from another lad, came to the school.

In her own words, she "was 'flabbergasted' to see his condition," and took him immediately to a doctor, who saw his exhausted state and discovered red weals on the shoulder, where he said the teacher had struck him. As he did not seem fit to walk, the doctor ordered him to bed. *Here he had to remain for three days*, and at the end of that time the marks were still visible.

Only one of these allegations of inhuman cruelty was denied by the defendant—the attempt to tie the boy's hands. Apart from that, the other conduct was absolutely unjustifiable, and merits the severest strictures. A man who can beat a boy until weals stand out on his skin, make him run twelve times round a large playground until he is ill from exhaustion, and then compel him to stand for half an hour or an hour after that—all for inability, or even disinclination, to spell correctly—is a disgrace to an honourable profession, and deserves to be turned out of it.

SHOULD THE LAW OF DISTRESS BE AMENDED?

A WORD WITH THE LABOUR PARTY.

We are constantly receiving complaints of harsh treatment meted out by a certain class of landlords and judgment creditors. As soon as a tenant gets a little into arrear with his rent, the landlord distrains upon his goods and chattels. At such sales £50 worth of furniture will often fetch about £10 only. Judgment creditors frequently come down in the same harsh way. Of course, the landlord is entitled to his rent, and the judgment creditor to his pound of flesh, but from the many heartrending letters we receive we cannot help thinking that the law should be amended so that the power of both landlords and judgment creditors were judiciously curbed. The landlord's power of distress and the judgment creditor's right to levy execution should be limited to that portion of a man's household furniture and effects that exceeds in value the sum of £50; that is to say, that £50 worth of goods and chattels should be immune instead of £5 worth.

Now, Keir Hardie and Ramsay Macdonald, this is a question which more particularly affects the class whose interests you are supposed to represent. Give such matters a little more attention and thought, and the natives of India a little less.

"PARLIAMENTARY FAILURES."

A "DEFENCE" OF SIR J. H. YOXALL.

We have received the following "defence" of Sir J. H. Yoxall—which may possibly induce that hon. member to declare—"Save me from my friends!" The idea of a parliamentary expert "getting some one else to fire his bullets" is delicious. The writer is Mr. Robt. L. Lloyd, of Chester:—

I have always considered JOHN BULL, though very outspoken, fair and just in its criticism, but I take strong exception to the article in last week's issue on Sir J. H. Yoxall. It savours of spleen, and is inaccurate, paltry, misleading, and utterly unworthy of a manly paper such as JOHN BULL. Further, it is insulting to a great body of men and women upon whom the future welfare of this nation greatly depends—the teachers of the elementary schools of the country.

Perhaps the teachers' training college may not make a man an educational expert; but when it is followed by years of experience in school, and that is followed by years of practice in educational matters both in and out of Parliament, and in the daily management of a large and *powerful* organisation such as the National Union of Teachers, it is absurd to say that all these things never make a man an educational expert. If they don't, what does? Then you say that Sir James was an unsuccessful schoolmaster "attempting" to throw off his shackles by entering other walks of life. Don't you think he has "attempted" it very successfully? The schoolroom was too small and cramped for a man of his abilities, and his *success* there paved his way to a wider and more useful field of activities, *cheered* and *encouraged* by his former associates, and not looked on with envy as you state. The fact that the teachers chose him for their General Secretary and afterwards helped him into Parliament shows their faith and goodwill surely—and not their envy and contempt.

Then you say he is the one man never consulted on educational matters in Parliament. How simple you must be, JOHN BULL! Can't you see that it is better for Sir James to get some one else to fire his bullets—he supplying the shot? And I *know* that this is done, and also that *nothing* educationally is done in Parliament or at the Board of Education without Sir James (as the representative of that *weak* teachers' organization) being consulted or having his say. Does that sound like a nonentity? Like a failure? You are lamentably ignorant of the power and influence of the N.U.T. and of Sir James as its representative or you would not write such piffle! Then you find fault with Sir James because of his versatility. If he can write saleable novels—which he has done; if he can make money at journalism—which he has done; if he dabbles in ceramics (and makes them pay!); if he is a *dilettante*—which he is; does all this show that he is an incapable fool? Can a man who has done so much besides making himself an expert at his original profession, be a failure? Can he be said to be incapable of a serious thought or an original idea? No, JOHN BULL, it is absurd, and I rather fancy that at some time he has struck you hard with his "scorpion tongue," and that this article is your paltry revenge!

No, JOHN BULL, your article is not convincing. It smacks too much of narrowness and littleness. Give the man credit for what he has done (a man risen from the people!) and own up like a true John Bull to your gross and unfair errors.

SAD STORIES.

BY LEOPOLD SPERO.

A Tramp lay down in a Ditch on a Hot Day, and for Better Comfort exposed a Fine Expanse of Bosom to the Friendly Rays of the Sun. Attracted by the Undoubted Juciness of the Peripatetic Philosopher, a Bot-fly settled upon him, and Presently held a Levee for a Host of his Relations. The Whole Entomology of the Neighbourhood soon got the News, and Rolled up in Great Force: Ants, Bluebottles, Earwigs, Midges, all were There, promenading. Meanwhile the Tramp Dozed on, at Peace with the World and Grateful rather than Otherwise for Any Tickling Sensation that Might have been Communicated to his soi-disant Brain from his Nerve-centres. At last, However, a Wasp joined the Crowd—a Clumsy Beast who did not Know How to conduct himself at a Public Function: so Much so, indeed, that he Stung the Promenade; which Roused Itself Angrily from Its Slumbers, and put a Rude Termination to what had Promised to be a Most Pleasant Affair. Moral: You should never send Invitations to a Wasp, for you Never Know how he is Going to Beehive.

Result of our Second Cricket Competition announced this week. See page 925.

Dad enjoys his meals now greatly!
His appetite is looking up;
Thanks to BIRD'S we all have lately
With it's "Smile in every Cup!"

The men like Bird's, because it is the only Custard that tastes as good as it looks!

Nothing whets the appetite like enjoyable food, and few people need telling nowadays that Bird's Custard is the most enjoyable of all dinner sweets—as delicious with pudding and pie, as with the stewed fruits in season.

And Bird's Custard is enjoyed the more because it is absolutely pure, and so digestible that it never disagrees.

Bird's

the *Perfect* CUSTARD.

In Pkts. 2 for 1½*d*—Boxes 4*d* and 7½*d* and LARGE 8½*d* Tins.

C1563

TREBLES the : WEAR : of BOOT SOLES and ALL LEATHERS.

SEMELY

The big economizer in boot leather—the finest dressing for boots and leather in the world—and the only preparation that stops boots creaking and makes them water-proof and good for six more months' hard wear.

Sold Everywhere in Tubes 6d. and 1/-

SEMELEGRAMS, the Great Prize Scheme, £2,000

One form with **6d.** tube; three with **1/-** tube.

FILL IN THIS COUPON AND POST.

Messrs. The Semely Co. Ltd. 21 Charterhouse St., London, E.C. Please send me..... Tubes of SEMELY, together with particulars of £2,000 prize competition, and entrance form, for which I enclose.....

Name.....

Address.....

J.B.

INDIGESTION

Sleeplessness—Pains after Eating—Nausea

BANISHED BY

MOTHER SEIGEL'S SYRUP.

Mr. P. V. Walsh, of Laurel Cottage, Meriden Road, Coventry, writes on November 28th, 1912: "For many years I was a schoolmaster in the Army, and while stationed at Agra, in India, suffered fearfully from Indigestion. This was a new and painful experience for me, who had always enjoyed good health and a reputation for unusual strength. Sleeplessness, pains after eating, sickness, and frequent nausea were the principal symptoms in my case.

"This condition of health continued for nearly five years, and then the time arrived for me to return home. I confidently expected the change would put a speedy end to my sufferings. But it did nothing of the sort. I was just as bad in England as in India.

"In 1910 I was on a visit to some of my wife's relations in Beaminster, and while there heard of a remarkable cure of Indigestion by Mother Seigel's Syrup. Much against my will, and solely to please my wife's father, I agreed to try the remedy, and was surprised and gratified at the result. The benefit began within three days, and by the time I had taken several small bottles I was well. I have been speaking of July, 1910, and Indigestion has never once troubled me since."

Indigestion, if neglected, can undermine the strength of the strongest man. In Mr. Walsh's case it made him weak and miserable for nearly five years. If you suffer as he did, why not follow his example, and let Mother Seigel's Syrup remove the complaint? Take it in daily doses and you will soon feel the benefit. But firmly refuse all substitutes.

The 2/6 bottle contains 3 times as much as the 1/1½ size.

DAMLESS DUNSTABLE DAMNED.

FLOATING FILTH AND FOOLISH FOSSILS.

Dunstable is an ancient Royal Borough—the directors of its municipal affairs seem to be ancient also. The other day, in response to the request of an influential deputation of local tradesmen, we paid the town a visit and found portions of it three feet under water. There had been a thunderstorm accompanied by a heavy downpour of rain and the drains in the principal streets were not adequate to take away the surface water. Shopkeepers and private residents were hopelessly endeavouring to keep the water from their premises. Not that they had been caught unprepared, for—such occurrences being, owing to the antiquated drainage system, of not infrequent occurrence—every inhabitant of the street has long been provided with shutters to fix into his doorway, but the contrivances in every case proved ineffectual. Perhaps the most astounding part of the business, however, was the philosophical view which some of the poorer residents of the flooded area took of the position. In one cottage a mother had just brought into the world a little Dunstableite, and had to be hastily removed on account of the incoming water. A small crowd stood on the opposite side of the street, several of them condemning the inaction of the Borough Council and sympathising with the mother. "It's a shame," said one buxom maid, "if I had my way I'd poleaxe the bounders." One ancient son of the soil, however, seemed to regard the burden of motherhood lightly, contending that the unusual experience would "teach the young 'un to swim"!

We found shopkeepers whose goods were floating about in all directions and publicans whose cellars had six feet of water in them, while private residents were in no better plight. One of the sufferers, whose goods were submerged, told us that on a previous occasion he had demanded compensation from the Council, but was informed that the excessive downfall was "an act of God," and that therefore they were under no liability.

But bad as was the inundation, the after effects were much worse. When at last the Council's men managed to get the drains to work, the streets and footpaths were covered with a thick, slimy substance, the stench of which was enough to cause an epidemic of fever. The cost of pumping out their premises will be demanded later from sufferers. If these people take our advice they would not only refuse to pay these charges, but they would sue the Town Council for such damages as they have sustained. We are not drain specialists, but this much we do know—Dunstable should either have a dam to keep in check its rain water or adequate drainage to carry it away. But Dunstable is damned by an apathetic local authority, and there seems no likelihood of measures being taken to remedy matters, the low-lying parts of the town not being honoured with the residence of any member of the Council.

THE MOTHER OF THE REGIMENT.

OPTIMISTIC OLD LADY AND WAR OFFICE.

An old lady in Manchester—75 years of age—is carrying on a vigorous correspondence with the War Office in the hope of obtaining a pension. She has had two soldiers for husbands, and survived both. Her first was a Highlander, who fought in the Indian Mutiny and died of cholera in Madras. Her second was one of the rank and file of the 24th Regiment; he retired with a small pension but died in 1887—so did his pension. Since then she has been trying to obtain some allowance from the Secretary of State for War, but without any good result. She proudly points to the fact that she was born in the Army and has spent 30 years of her married life in it. Added to this, she claims to have no less than fifteen relatives in the junior service and also two grandchildren in the Navy. So far as we are able to gather, the old dame's only lapse from the path of rectitude is that she has had the audacity to live after her lords have departed to the land where Army pensions and Old Age pensions are unknown. Had she but had the foresight to marry an officer, she would have been entitled to a pension—but that's another story!

HUMAN DOCUMENT.—CCLII.

[In this column every week we publish particulars of some human derelict whose case, after full investigation, we are able to recommend to the charity of our readers. We are happy to say that in this way we have already been the means of bringing comfort into many a wretched home. All amounts subscribed are duly acknowledged, and no deduction of any kind is made by us.]

A CRY FROM THE WORKHOUSE.

A Poor-law official writes:—

> We have a very respectable woman in this House with four children—two boys, aged 11 and 9, and two girls, aged 3 and 1 year, respectively. Her husband has served in the Army as a shoemaker. The man has been allowed to leave the Union in search of work, which he has obtained, but, wages being low in this part of the country, it seems almost impossible for him to get together the home for which himself, wife and children are praying.

The husband tells us that he joined the Army in 1888 and within a few months was employed in the Shoemakers' shop. After being promoted to sergeant he returned to regimental duty. He left the service at the end of his twelve years' term. Starting as boot repairer, he was fairly successful for three years, when competition compelled him to give up his own business and become a journeyman. His new employers, however, suffered from the same cause, and failed. Being unable to get employment, he had to go into the workhouse with his wife and family. Allowed out for the purpose, he obtained a job in a distant town, but at the very small wages of £1 a week—out of which he obviously cannot save sufficient to send for his wife and children. In the ordinary course of events the Guardians would soon compel the man to take his wife and family out of the workhouse, whatever be the suffering entailed, but in this case they are acting with praiseworthy leniency. We have forwarded £5 to the Chaplain of the Workhouse, to be used on the woman's behalf. Whatever amount our readers like to contribute will be forwarded to the husband, in order that he may get together a little home. Clothes for the woman and children would be of great service.

We have received the following amounts, which we have duly forwarded to the subjects of the "Human Documents" named:

CCXXX.—H. J., 2s. 6d.
CCXXXVII.—H. J., 2s. 6d.
CCXLVII.—R. G., 2s. 6d.
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We have this week apportioned £10 from the "John Bull Derby Sweepstake Charity Fund" as follows:—CCL., £3; CCLI. £3; and £2 each to the poor people whose cases have been published under the headings of "The Great White Scourge" and "Wangling a Widow."

Of the donations kindly given by previous "Bullets" winners, one guinea has been allotted to the couple mentioned in the paragraph headed "'Ware Wickham," in our issue of June 14th.

HUMAN DOCUMENT CCXLIX.

Our attention has been called to a circular which has been issued by the subject of the above Document, reprinting our recent appeal, and asking for further subscriptions. We desire to state that we are in no way responsible for this circular.

COLLECTING BOXES.

Leicester.—Mr. J. Facer, 82, Dunton St., 1s. 5½d.; Mr. G. Green, "Hotel Balmoral," Melton Rd., 1s. 2½d.; Mr. G. Dakin, "Shaftesbury Hotel," Conduit St., 1s. 7½d.; Miss M. Nibbett, Albion St., 2s. 6d.; Mr. P. Bedford, 153, Uper Kent St., 1s.; Mr. T. Cramp, 49, Haynes Rd., Uppingham Rd., 2s. 3d.; Miss M. A. Dudgeon, 49, Hinckley Rd., 1s. 8½d.; Mr. W. Boulton, 256, Humberstone Rd., 1s. 5d.; Mrs. W. J. Bailey, "Freemason's Arms," Burley Lane, 1s. 3d.; Mr. T. Fox, "Fish and Quart Hotel," Churchgate, 1s. 2½d.

London.—Mrs. Catharine, "Cherry Tree," Bermondsey, 1s. 1½d.; Mrs. Norman, "Beresford Arms," Beresford St., Camberwell, 1s. 1d.; Messrs. Marsden and Co., 109, Bow Rd., 1s. 2½d.; Mr. A. Johnson, "Distillers Arms," 28, Hancock Rd., Bromley, 1s. 9½d.; Mr. A. Stribling, 33, Carlton Vale, Kilburn, 1s. 1d.

Stroud.—Mr. P. G. Lucas, 32, High St., 1s. 6½d.

Edinburgh.—Mr. H. Scott, 202, Rose St., 1s. 3d.

Total: £1 4s. 0½d., which we have allocated to CCL.

Result of our Second Cricket Competition announced this week. See page 925.

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OUR ADVICE.

We hear a lot nowadays about the scarcity of men who are capable of earning as much as £5 a week and the struggle for existence of the thousands of men who are not able to demand more than 30s a week to keep their wives and families.

Although in a few cases "bad luck" may be the reason, there is no disguising the fact that every man has his future in his own hands, more or less, and it is the man who realises this fact that is constantly on the look-out for opportunities for safeguarding himself against unemployment and for improving his present wage by making himself worth more money to either his present employer or a fresh one. No matter what his present occupation is, he is the kind of man who says to himself, "I will lose no time in fitting myself to enter the Motor Industry, which is now in its infancy, and which offers by far the best chances to smart men, and I will call or write at once to the Motor Industry's training centre:—The British School of Motoring, Coventry House, 5 and 6, Coventry Street, Piccadilly Circus, W (opposite the Prince of Wales Theatre, near Leicester Square), for their Free Illustrated Prospectus (J) on how to obtain instruction in Practical Motoring and how to get a berth in the Motor Industry."

This is the kind of man who succeeds—he does not rely upon his present job or trade: he sees that he has two strings to his bow. He is the smart man—are you one also?

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ALGERNON: "I suppose you've seen a good many wrecks in your time, my man?"
OLD SALT: "No, guvner; you're the first I've come across."

THE "IDEAL POLICEMAN."

A CHIEF CONSTABLE ON ESSENTIAL VIRTUES.

Until we read the lecture of Chief Constable Bruce, of Dunfermline, in the Burgh Court Room to the members of the local police force, it had not occurred to us that the ideal policeman had to carry about with him so many talents and so many virtues, but this may be because the ideal policeman, like ideal journalists and ideal politicians and ideal parsons, are so scarce this side the border that we have not seen one. We note that "to begin with," a policeman must be of the best physique, the highest character, bright intelligence, temperate in all things, and "able to get along with other people." As some sort of corroboration of this last statement, we saw a policeman in London a few days ago getting along with other people in magnificent style—they having been caught playing pitch and toss after school hours contrary to the statute in that behalf made and provided. Fact is, we have noticed time and time again that when a policeman gets along with people they get along with him. It seems to be safer to, somehow.

Then, says Chief Constable Bruce, "a good police officer would attribute his success to always being a quarter of an hour before he was expected; others, because they were always on the spot." Again, something tells us that he has hit the nail on the head, but on this test what a lot of men in the force must be dead failures. If we had to qualify this dictum, we should say the spot the policeman is on should always be the right spot. For instance, we were out late one night last week and a young policeman thought there were burglars in a "general" shop. We cannot say whether a cat had knocked over a tin of lobster or the owner had let a cough drop; but anyhow, the officer couldn't get any assistance until the burglars, if any, had clambered over nineteen roofs, walked slowly to their distant homes, and started snoring in their sweet repose. Why, think you? Solely because he was whistling, till he nearly burst, on one spot and the rest of the force in the district on some other and far-distant spot.

We also note with interest the statement that a policeman must have a "quick and sure vision," a "grasping mind," an "untiring power of thought," and "a mind stored with ordered knowledge like a great warehouse stored with goods." Undoubtedly a quick and sure vision is essential, for without it a policeman is apt to see things when they aren't there, but we do not quite appreciate what is meant by "a grasping mind." A grasping hand we should have agreed with him *in toto*; as it is, we must take time to reflect. At present, we think a grasping hand, a right and a left, is more to the purpose. It is this which enables him to seize a beer-pot in the dark with such unerring accuracy. In the final hope that policemen will "always be perfect in accuracy and truthfulness," we can join with pious fervour, for there are few things in this life for which we are more thankful under Providence than that when David the King said in his haste that all men were liars, he did not mean to include policemen. When we see two policemen retire under a quiet lamp-post, pull out their note-books, put their heads together, and write in that perfect community of spirit which invariably actuates the several members of a beat, we pause in awed reverence, take off our hat, and exclaim "Hail, Truth!" We know they are writing the unassailable and impregnable facts of history. May the policeman's days be filled with nice quiet walks, and his nights wrap him in undisturbed slumber as with a garment!

To secure a nice, easy and comfortable shave, it is necessary in the first place to possess a razor reasonably sharp. The sharpest razor, however, will not shave you comfortably unless you use a really good shaving soap. The Americans were the first to discover this, but for some time past that very old-established English firm, Jno. Knight and Sons, have been manufacturing a shaving soap which, in the opinion of those who have tried it, has no superior either amongst the imported or the home-manufactured brands. It is a soap that provides a nice, soft, creamy lather that remains moist on the face until the operation is complete. It makes shaving almost a pleasure, and instead of the old smarting skin, the face is left cool and refreshed. It can be used with either hot or cold water, with equal success.

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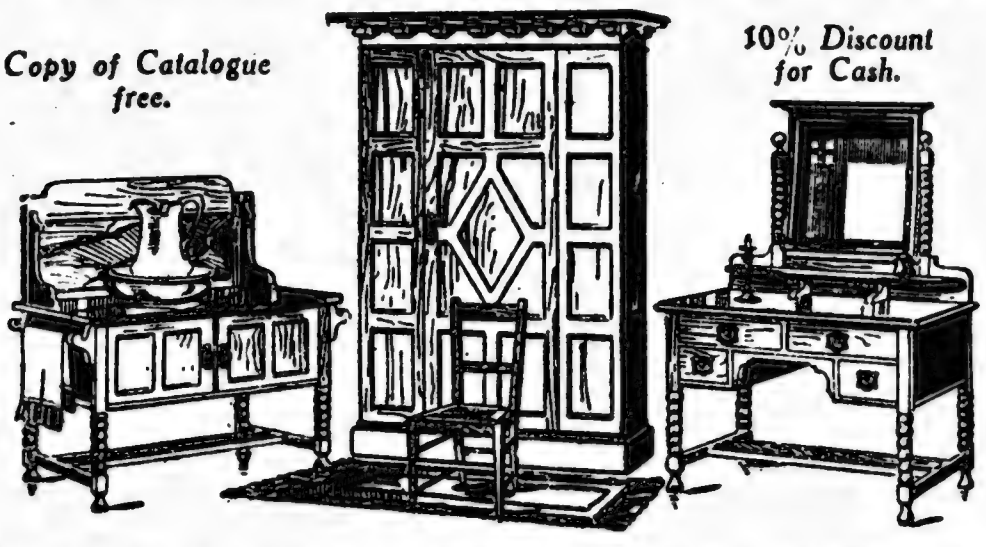

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OPEN LETTERS AND POSTCARDS.

To M. Poincaré, President of the French Republic.

DEAR M. LE PRESIDENT,—A word of greeting. I would have you believe that the plaudits of the London populace now ringing in your ears are no mere perfunctory tribute to your exalted person, but the mark of an abiding sympathy between our nation and your own. The peaceful passage of the years has softened ancient asperities and linked our destinies in an indissoluble bond. After mature deliberation and in sober earnest, we have extended to you the right hand of fellowship, and come what may of difficulty or danger, Britain will not forsake her friend. *Vive l'entente cordiale!*

JOHN BULL.

To the Right Hon. Winston S. Churchill, M.P.

DEAR WINSTON,—Your recent manifesto to the Young Liberals of Bristol was in your best style. "The General Election will come," you declare, with rare prophetic might, and when it comes you are confident that you will "roll the Tories over" as oft you have done before.

I will not weary you with hackneyed aphorisms anent the unwisdom of enumerating unhatched fowl, but I would respectfully warn you that the near future may contain some big surprises for you and your friends and your foes. The screaming Marconi farce now played to its fatuous finish has served one useful purpose. It has made the puerile game the laughing stock of an awakened nation. Ridicule is ever the deadliest of destructive engines. Make no mistake, the game is up, my dear Winston. If you don't believe it—ask F. E.

JOHN BULL.

To His Worship, the Mayor of Bournemouth.

SAINTED SIR,—I recently adverted to a regrettable outburst of Sabbatarian fanaticism in your holy city. I then expressed the hope that the poor but plucky traders who were the victims of your bigotry would fight you to a finish and win. I now observe that you have been compelled to climb down with more haste than dignity. The Borough Council, by a large majority, have instructed the police to ignore you and your fellow faddists, and to cease from vexing humble tradesmen who, in the pursuit of their honest callings, have infringed the obsolete provisions of a mediæval statute. Wherefore I greatly rejoice.

JOHN BULL.

To the Chairman and Members of the Education Committee, Chelmsford.

GENTLEMEN,—Though I agree that honesty is the best policy, I am bound to tell you it doesn't always look like it. Take the case of Banks, the driver of the G.E.C. bus running between Chelmsford and Writtle—but, of course, you know all about it. While Banks was driving along the highway, he noticed a parcel in the road. Stopping his bus, he called the conductor to pick up the parcel, and it was then found to contain £12 18s. in money, a note inside revealing that it had been sent from Writtle, and was intended for the Education Committee. The two men might have shared the cash, treated their missuses to some high heels and feathers, and gone on the spree; or they might have donated the money to a charity, used it for rent and rates, or invested it in Consols or American Marconis. But they were as honest as the day, gentlemen. Temptation did not divert them from the narrow way. They sent the cash to the proper quarter, and "subsequently," says the reporter of the melancholy *dénouement*, "the driver and conductor were rewarded with the sum of sixpence each."

Gentlemen, I hope that Chelmsford can withstand this strain which your generous instincts have imposed on its financial resources. Are you assured that the town is in a position to afford to give sixpence each to those two men? Have you convinced yourself that it does not need the money for pie, or pudding, or cough-drops, or other necessaries of life? But why do I ask? The deed is done, gentlemen. The sacrifice is made. Honesty is at last triumphant. May those who have received its reward bless you as you deserve, and scrupulously refrain from spending all the money at one shop. Which is all at present, from your old friend.

JOHN BULL.

Another £50 for a "Mauve" Coupon.

To the Right Hon. Lord Rosebery, K.G.

MY LORD,—On the occasion of Sir Edward Carson's recent visit to Edinburgh, you rubbed shoulders with the crowd which had gathered to watch the "General's" triumphal progress from the Synod Hall. You were espied by a lynx-eyed "aide-de-camp," who urged you to accompany him to the hotel, there to meet his martial master. You declined the invitation, preferring, as you laughingly declared, to be "just the Man-in-the-Street."

The incident set me thinking. Many of us would give much to know your matured views on the problem of Irish government. You have a vivid historic sense, shrewd political insight, and, withal, an intensely human heart. War clouds loom low on the Western horizon. Why should you not emerge from your retirement to point the way of peace to a perplexed and, maybe, a purblind nation? 'Tis the eleventh hour. We seek the man. JOHN BULL.

To the Right Hon. Reginald McKenna, P.C., M.P., Home Office, Whitehall.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY,—I learn with horror that the maniac who recently butchered a schoolgirl at Walworth was a certified lunatic who escaped from Colney Hatch Asylum in the early part of this year. The Walworth coroner declares that an escaped lunatic who has eluded re-capture for upwards of two weeks cannot be re-arrested without re-certification. If this is so, steps should immediately be taken to end so perilous an anomaly. Hurry up with a *real* Mental Deficiency Bill.

JOHN BULL.

To the Bishop of London.

MY LORD BISHOP,—I observe that at the Hyde Park demonstration you stated that "If the Church did its duty, God would not allow the Welsh Disestablishment Bill to pass." Don't you see that in the event of the measure going through you put either the Church or the Deity in a very awkward position? Do drop claptrap.

JOHN BULL.

To Charles Lee, Esq., Magistrate, Willesden.

SIR,—I raise my hat to you. In the course of a recent case at your Court, it transpired that a tyrannical landlord, fit mate of a rascal I recently trounced, had entered his tenant's house to remove the windows from their sashes and the doors from their jambs. You were properly indignant at this outrage, and roundly declared your opinion that the landlord's action was flagrantly illegal. You went further in your generous sympathy. You knew that the tenant was a poor man, and of your charity you offered to finance a test case whereby he might recover damages for the disturbance of his domestic peace and the invasion of his legal rights.

'Twas bravely done! Here's a health to your worship. May you live long to strike terror upon evil-doers and to comfort the poor. JOHN BULL.

To Lord Kinnaird, President, Young Men's Christian Association.

MY LORD.—In a recent public address you declared that football and sport were "a great gospel by which men could be reached," and you emphatically dissociated yourself from that pernicious Puritanism which regards wholesome play as a device of the Devil, and honest pleasure as deadly sin.

I rejoice to know that your Christianity is of so healthy and muscular a type. There is grave danger lest organisations like yours should be dominated by cranks and kill joys. May you long survive to point the better way. JOHN BULL.

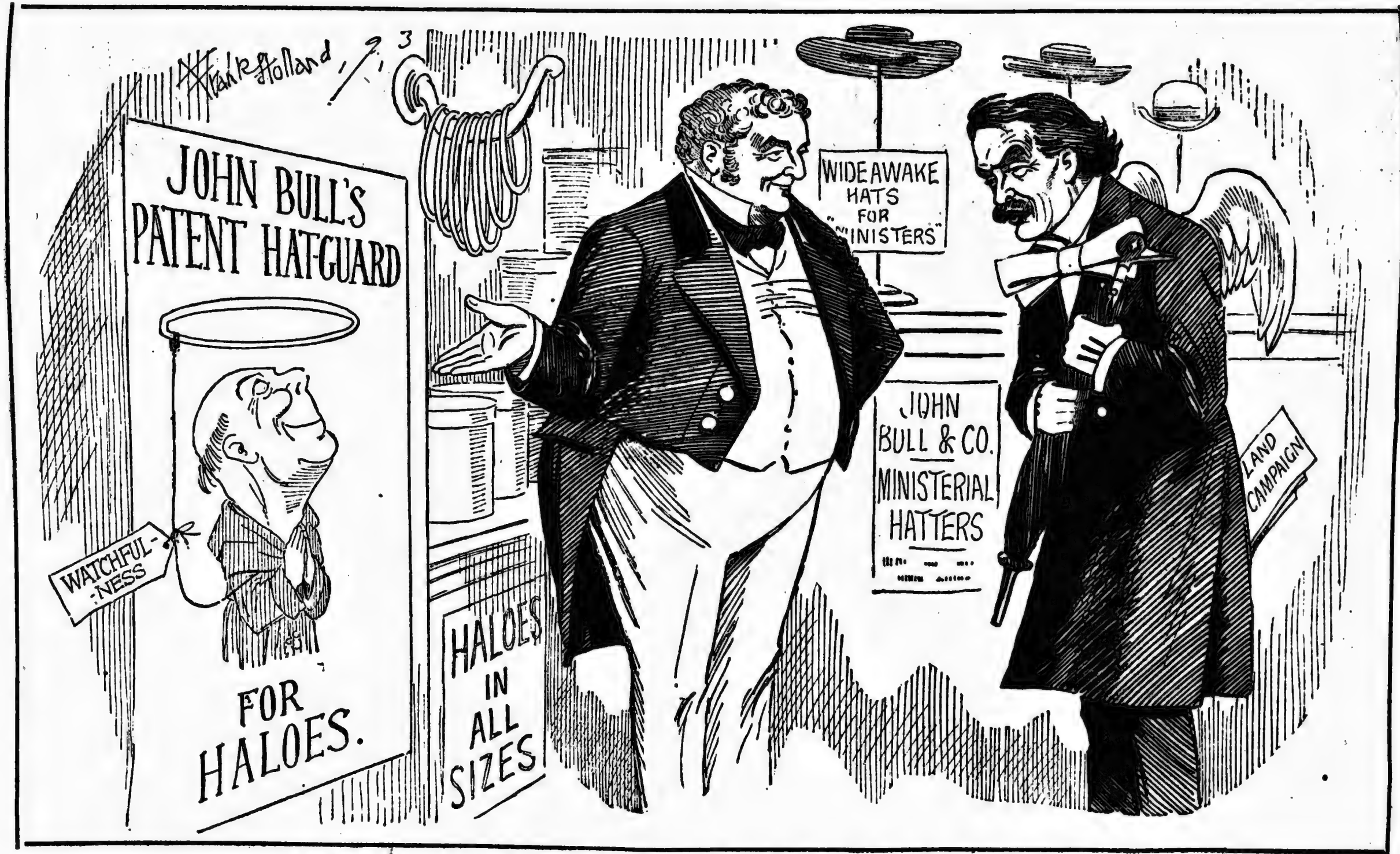
To Mr. Thomas Elias, General Secretary, Cooks' and Stewards' Union, Cardiff.

DEAR TOM,—I see that you have been fined £5 for kissing Mrs. Matilda Harry, of Constellation Street, at your office on Christmas Eve last. This is a nasty smack, however nice the other may have been. I have not yet had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. Matilda Harry, but having taken a fairly general survey of womankind, I venture to assert that there is not a woman breathing whom it is worth £5 to kiss—against her will.

JOHN BULL.

A Distinct and EXTRA Cricket Prize.

THE UNGUARDED HALO.



JOHN BULL: "Lost your halo? Ah, this is the thing you ought to have had!"

HOW I COMMENCED.

LIFE STORIES OF EMINENT MEN AND WOMEN.

By "Retlaw."

Mr. Gubbins, of Bournemouth.

No matter when I was born, nor the place of my nativity. I am especially desirous not to forestal the information that will shortly appear in *Who's Who* under the name of Gubbins. Therefore let it suffice that I first saw the light exactly as many years ago as I am old to-day, and that my birth took place where my mother happened to be at the time.

Although I was brought up amidst somewhat drab surroundings, by no means calculated to develop the imagination and encourage literary leanings, there was that within me which defied the repressive atmosphere of my environment. The spark of literary genius illuminated my soul, casting "the light that never was on land or sea" upon "the daily task, the common round," so that the simplest objects, the most ordinary happenings of every-day life, acquired an intense interest in my eyes. I felt that the mantle of Charles Dickens had fallen upon me.

I read with avidity everything in the way of print that I could lay my hands on, thereby unconsciously mulching the soil of my fertile brain for an abundant crop in years to come. At one time it seemed hard that family circumstances did not permit of my enjoying the advantages of a public school and university education. But I have seen since that Fate had a purpose in withholding those privileges from me. I have learned that the only school worth anything is the World, and that experience is the only education worth a pinch of salt.

But when the time came for me to take up the grocery profession, I did it with considerable reluctance, little wotting that literary talent can triumph over the greatest difficulties, and that genius, like murder, *will* "out."

As I stood behind the counter of the shop in Bournemouth serving quarters of eighteenpenny tea and twos of Dem., I often wondered whether my customer had any suspicion that she was being politely served by a literary genius whose fame as a writer of short stories would shortly fill the world. But such incongruities are frequently met with in the lives of great men of letters. Did not Keats serve behind a druggist's counter and deal out pills and potions to an unthinking public? *Verb. sap. Quant. suff.*

When I had written a dozen or so of short stories of superlative merit I began to despatch them to the editors of various periodicals. I quickly found that editors are an undiscriminating race. With irritating regularity my manuscripts were returned to me. I could not understand it.

What's in a Name?

But one epoch-making day, as I stood with one of the rejected in my hand, ruefully perusing the envelope, I suddenly saw light. "Gubbins." *That* was the trouble, the hindrance, the stumbling block. "Gubbins" was obviously not the sort of name to inspire confidence in an editor. It was "Gubbins" that had kept me out of my own, that had prevented the due recognition of my genius. And I then and there resolved that, so far as literature was concerned, "Gubbins" must die, to rise again under a new name more suited to a man of letters.

But now the question of a *nom de plume* arose. It must be original. That I decided at once. It must also have some bearing on my life and circumstances. That seemed necessary. So I examined into my feelings and glanced at my situation. Had not the constant return of my MSS. put me in a pet? And had I not, after long and weary toil, just climbed to the ridge from which in imagination I could see the fair valley of literary fame and consequent competence stretching away at my feet? Ah! An inspiration. I would call myself Pett Ridge.

The same day I posted a short story signed Pett Ridge to the *English Illustrated Magazine*. It was accepted. I was paid two guineas for it. I had at last got one foot firmly planted on the bottom rung of the ladder of fame. But, alas, *sic transit gloria mundi*. I found that there was already a Pett Ridge in existence, and everybody who reads the newspapers must have seen the sequel.

CIRCUMSTANCES ALTER CASES.

By L. B.-P.

The Stipendiary glanced at the charge-sheet before him, and then exclaimed—

"John Brown; put him up."

John Brown was "put up" and after another glance at his sheet the magistrate continued: "John Brown you are charged with stealing on the 12th day of June from a cart in High Street one loaf, value threepence, the property of William Smith. I see there is no address on the sheet. Where do you live?"

"I took it because I was starving, sir—I had to have something to eat. But I've got relations in the town, and I shouldn't like them to know about this. I'd rather not give my address."

"Tell me your address," the magistrate thundered. "If you steal you must take the consequences."

Reluctantly the victim of necessity bowed to the law and gave his address. Evidence was heard, and the maximum sentenced imposed.

* * * * * *

The next case is called. A solicitor rises and says:

"May I ask your worship to have the name of the prisoner withheld? She is of good social position, and if this case became known she would be completely ostracised. Her husband is well known in the town, and it might ruin him if this affair was made public. I will pass the name and address up to your worship on a slip of paper."

"Oh, I understand, certainly," replies the magistrate, and he raises his eyebrows as he scans the paper handed to him. Then he addresses the fashionably attired female in the dock.

"You are charged, madam, with stealing a quantity of lace, value £5, from Messrs. Drapers and Milliners' shop."

Evidence conclusively proving the theft of the lace is given by a shop assistant, who says:

"I saw Mrs. Br——

"Silence, sir," interposes the magistrate. "I will have you detained for contempt of court if you repeat that after I have sanctioned the witholding of the prisoner's name. Go on."

The evidence is continued with no other slip.

The solicitor pleads kleptomania, and the magistrate, expressing many regrets at the very unfortunate position, binds the woman over to be of good conduct.

THE SANATORIUM AT HOME.

Dr. J. C. Thresh has stated that "sanatorium benefit" does not necessarily mean being sent to a sanatorium . . t "it might mean treatment at a dispensary, or treatment at home by the patient's doctor, with the provision of folding shelters, put in the garden and slept under at night.")

The pale-faced man with the killing cough,
  Had made up his mind to urge
His claim for the treatment due to him
  For fighting the Great White Scourge.
"Send me to a sanatorium,"
  The walking skeleton said,
But the panel doctor looked distressed,
  And thoughtfully shook his head.

"How can you ask for so dear a thing?"
  The consumptive, undismayed,
Said, "Sir, I'm only asking my due,
  I'm asking for what I've paid."
The doctor replied, "The benefits
  For which you have paid are due,
And this is the sanatorium
  Treatment that comes to you:—

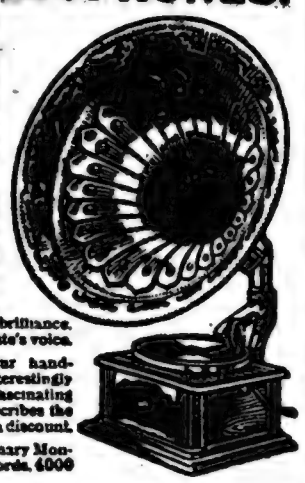
"We're going to rig up a rabbit-hutch
  For you in your garden fair,
You'll have to sleep in it night by night,
  Till cured by the balmy air."
The consumptive man (say of Sidney Street)
  With a heart nigh fit to burst,
Could only cry as he tottered away,
  "God! give me a garden first!" Ricardo.

Had your Fountain Pen yet? See Our Great Offer on page 949.

GRAVES GRAMOPHONES.

THIS HANDSOME FULL-TONED GRAMOPHONE, with TEN superb 10in ⊕ Disc Record Selections, delivered Carriage Paid to approved orders for 5/- NOW, and if considered entirely satisfactory, balance is payable in Nine Monthly payments of 5/- each.

5/- WITH ORDER



The Cabinet is of finely marked Dark Oak, brilliantly polished and embellished with a cuterpi Art Metal panel. Powerful Silent Steel Motor, Nickel Plated Taper Tone Arm, 10in Turntable, large 16in Seamless Sound Horn of graceful design. Highly sensitive reversing Sound Reproducer, which reproduces Full Military Band Selections with all their original brilliance, and the delicate variations of the solo artiste's voice.

CATALOGUE POST FREE. Our handsomely produced Gramophone Guide interestingly gives all the newest facts about these fascinating instruments, and fully illustrates and describes the newest models. Easy terms or 2/- in £ cash discount.

IMPORTANT. Write for our Extraordinary Monthly Payment Offer of high-grade Disc Records, 4000 Selections post free.

J. G. GRAVES LTD. SHEFFIELD.

GRAVES 'KNOWSLEY' DINNER SERVICE

Supplied in either ROYAL BLUE or GREY GREEN. This artistically designed 54-Piece Dinner Service comprises, 12 Dinner Plates, 12 Pudding Plates, 12 Cheese Plates, 6 Dishes assorted sizes, 2 Vegetable Tureens, 2 Sauce Tureens.

WE DELIVER this handsome dinner service to approved orders for 5/- with order, balance to be paid in five monthly payments of 5/- if satisfactory. Fullest approval allowed. Send a Postcard for List of Glass and China ware.

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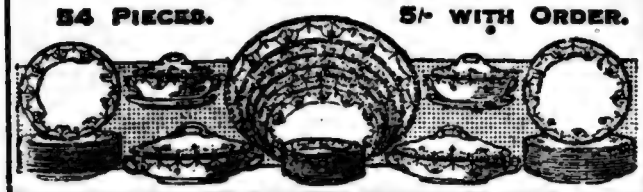
54 PIECES. **5/- WITH ORDER.**



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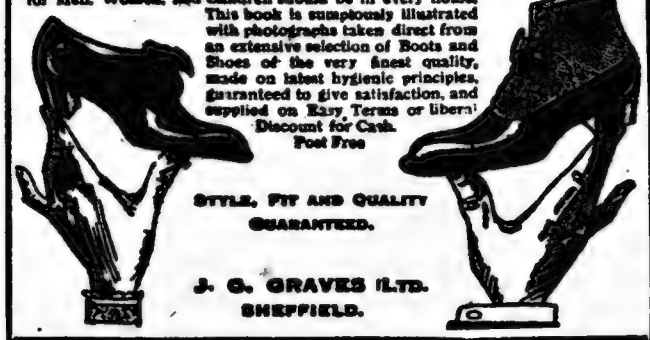

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We are headquarters for the finest Folding Hand Cameras known to the Trade. The Graves 'Surbiton' ½-plate Model here illustrated will stand comparison with the most expensive folding camera you can place beside it, and will give you equal results. Ebonised polished base board, nickelled fittings, solid leather bellows, solid aluminium cast stirrup shaped lens front, engraved focussing scale from 3 to 25 feet, and infinity, reversible oblong and upright view finder, variable speed shutter that works trigger and antinous release, **BECK NEOSTIGMAR ANASTIGMAT LENS** series 111 n No. 3, aperture F.7.7. (maker's catalogue price of Lens £1 : 17 : 6).

WE DELIVER The Graves "Surbiton" Folding Camera Outfit complete with two single Metal Dark Slides and Waterproof Carrying Case carriage paid to approved orders for 5/- with order, the balance to be paid in 11 monthly payments of 5/- if you are satisfied after full examination and test.

WRITE FOR CATALOGUE We show an ample selection of every style of Hand, Folding and Stand Cameras at the keenest rock-bottom prices, from 7/6 up, and all supplied on approval for easy payments or cash discount.

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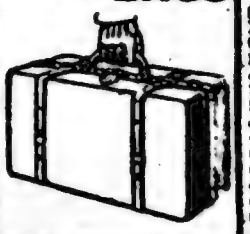
On receipt of Postcard we will send our Illustrated Catalogue of Bags & Trunks of every description: Gladstones from 21/-, Kit Bags from 19/6, Suit Cases 15/6, Cabin Trunks 28/-, Overland Trunks 28/-, and Hat Boxes and Cases, Hold Alls, Brief Bags, Sample Cases, Dressing Cases, Dress Baskets, and Hand Bags in large variety, all at economical prices. We undertake to satisfy you or immediately refund the whole of your money in full.



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WE DELIVER the Sheffield Bass carriage paid to all approved orders for 6/- with order, balance to be paid in six monthly instalments of 6/- if entirely satisfactory after full examination. Strong canvas lined Base, 26in Hand Saw; 14in Tenon Saw; 2½in Smooth Plane, 2½in Jack Plane; Brace and Set of Bits; 2 Foot Rule; Best Axe; 4 Cast Steel Firmer Chisels; 2 Cast Steel Handled Gouges; Hammer; Square; Marking Awl; Spokeshave, 3 Gimlets; 3 Bradawls; 2 Files; Mallet; Turnscrew; Brad Punch and Pincers. Every Tool well made.

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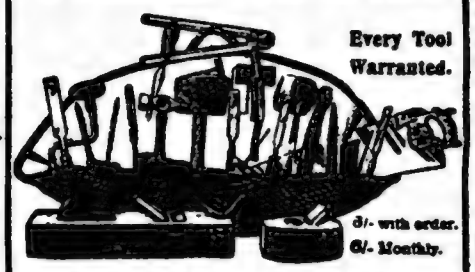

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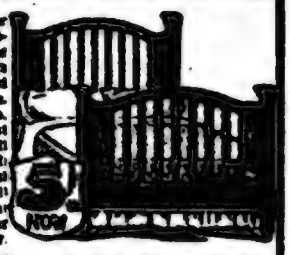

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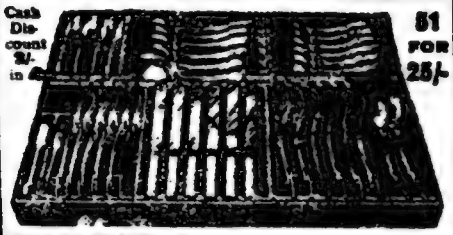
2/6 with order

Cash Discount 2/- in £



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THE KNIVES are of genuine Sheffield Steel, with handles of Ivory texture Ivorette, matched in faithful reproduction of choicest African Ivory. **The Spoons and Forks** are manufactured from Columbian Silver, which is a hard white metal which bears a superfine polish indistinguishable from genuine sterling silver. It is unaffected by acid foods or exposure to air, and retains its beautiful white colour for an unlimited length of time under all conditions of wear. Fullest approval allowed.

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WE DELIVER your Suit exactly to your measures, Carriage Paid to approved orders, for 6/- with order. The balance to be completed in monthly payments of 6/- if you are entirely satisfied with the Fit, Quality and Value of the Suit after you have tried it on in your own home. Money instantly refunded in full if you are not entirely satisfied.

WRITE FOR PATTERNS A Post Card will bring you per return the finest display of cloth samples ever submitted at the price, and these cuttings from the cloth lengths which we are now making up, will enable you to judge of the excellence of the materials we are using and the undoubted superiority of design which characterises our cloths, and commands the approval of even the most fastidious customer. Possibly you may be prejudiced against reasonably priced clothing on account of a supposed inferiority of design, but surely no harm can be done by sending a postcard for patterns. Whether you decide to entrust us with your order or not, you will at least be convinced that neat, tasteful designs are no longer restricted to extravagantly priced suits, but are equally available in moderately priced tailoring.

IT WILL PAY YOU to look into this unusual clothing proposal. It only needs a post card sent to-day to secure per return our full range of cloth samples which we are now making up at 35/- and 42/- and including patterns of Tweeds, Cheviots, Worsted Serges, Plain Black and Blue Vicunas, and a splendid line in hard-wearing Yorkshire Suitings. With the actual materials in your hands, you can form your own unprejudiced opinion of the quality of the cloth, and the tastefulness of the designs, and if you decide to entrust us with a trial order, our fair and equitable conditions guarantee you complete satisfaction and protection against any risk of disappointment.

Please say if Light or Dark Patterns are preferred.

J. G. GRAVES LTD. SHEFFIELD.

MORE SIGHTS FOR THE BOY KING.

WHAT THE KING OF BUGANDA MUST NOT MISS.

By Richard Morton.

The youthful King of Buganda, with his good-looking, good-humoured black face, and his gaily-coloured robes, is becoming quite a familiar figure in London. Under the careful guidance of a Colonial Office expert, he has been trotted round to see cricket and polo and the river; to his sorrow he can see no football, because it is not in season. He has been initiated into the solemnities of an English Court of Justice, having sat on the bench by the side of Mr. Justice Darling. The young King knows English, and is polite enough to laugh in the proper place; his study of our legal system was therefore quite successful. To complete the course he should make the acquaintance of Mr. Plowden; this would complete his knowledge of the solemn side of the law. The light and airy side might be furnished from the examples of Mr. Justice Phillimore and Lord Justice Buckley.

And there are other phases of life in London that should be made plain to our interesting visitor. The Colonial Office is strangled by red tape, and up to now the tour of this dusky young King has been too prosy and too ordinary. It is of the cut-and-dried type, a holiday that might have been planned by the Rev. F. B. Meyer and Mr. C. B. Fry in consultation. And that kind of thing makes for melancholy. It should be avoided, for it is up to us to give the King a good time. Let him see what there is to see. Let him read, mark, and learn what is really *It* in England.

Why sentence him to study a Trade Union law case—even under Mr. Justice Darling—when the Divorce Court was in full working order in the opposite corridor? Why debar him from innocent amusement so close at hand?

He should also experience all the fun of the fair to be found on any Suffragette Sunday in Hyde Park. The neighbourhood of the Reformers' Tree on the Sabbath is bewilderingly full of excitement; it shows more marvels to the square yard than does the whole of Rotten Row or the Church Parade by the Achilles statue. No visitor from afar can afford to miss the Sunday speakers. No other city in the world can boast an exhibition of free speech to equal it. Speech is not only free there; it is amazing. And let it be impressed on the boy King that all the "houses" are shut; let him realise that all those leather-lunged spouters are laying the foundation of an almost incredible thirst; then will he begin to appreciate one of the delights of an English Sunday.

By-the-bye, he should have commenced the day with a visit to Middlesex Street, commonly known as Petticoat Lane. All students of our manners and customs make the excursion; it is their duty to see in London a scene so un-English—and so reminiscent of Johannesburg.

On a week-day morning the King will of course begin with a trip to Covent Garden in the early hours. It is necessary to be up with the lark to accomplish this—unless our guest should be spending a late night somewhere, when he could take Covent Garden on the way home. This is the method of the Nuts.

The boy King should certainly be initiated into the mysteries of the stage doors, especially of those theatres that purvey the more lightsome and frolicsome fare. We have the prettiest actresses in the world, and we import any others of outstanding merit; the bevy of beauty awaiting inspection by the ruler of Buganda is unmatchable and all-embracing.

In these coy fairies of the footlights he will observe the secret of Britain's greatness, for her strength is in her aristocracy, and her aristocracy is largely recruited from the ranks of musical comedy. It may be that the young King is matrimonially inclined; should he prefer to renounce the delights of a harem of ebony belles in favour of one smiling picture-postcard actress, the green room would no doubt supply the needful. Miss Tressie Montressor would be quite willing to become a real, live Queen, to exchange wigs and grease-paint for a throne. The gentleman from the Colonial Office who is trotting his Majesty round must look to these little things.

ACID STOMACHS ARE DANGEROUS.

NINE-TENTHS OF ALL STOMACH TROUBLE SAID TO BE DUE TO ACIDITY.

A PHYSICIAN'S ADVICE ON CAUSE AND CURE.

A famous physician whose successful researches into the cause and cure of stomach and intestinal diseases have earned for him an international reputation, said in the course of a recent lecture that nearly all intestinal troubles, as well as many diseases of the vital organs, were directly traceable to a deranged condition of the stomach, which in turn was due nine times out of ten to excessive acidity, which not only irritated and inflamed the delicate lining of the stomach, but also set up gastritis and stomach ulcers. It is interesting to note that he condemns the use of patent medicines as well as of medical treatment for the stomach, stating that he and his colleagues have secured remarkable results by the use of ordinary bisurated magnesia, which by neutralising the acidity of the food, removes the source of the trouble. He contends that it is as foolish to treat the stomach itself as it would be for a man who stepped on a tack to rub liniment on the foot without first removing the tack. Remove the tack and the foot will heal itself—neutralise the acid and stomach troubles will disappear. Irritating medicines and medical treatments are useless, so long as the contents of the stomach remain acid; remove the acidity, and there will be no need for medicine—the inflamed lining of the stomach will then heal itself. Sufferers from acidity should get a small bottle of bisurated magnesia from their chemist, and take half a teaspoonful in a quarter of a glass of hot or cold water after meals, repeating in fifteen minutes, if necessary, this being the dose which the doctor has found most efficacious in all cases.

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Two Holiday Bargains for Men.

The "Agros" Coats

From the Finest "Weather-proofed" materials, light in weight, porous, yet absolutely proof against any weather. Free from rubber and odourless. In all sizes. "Ready-for-service." From **45/-**

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The "Selfridge" FLANNEL TROUSERS, "Ready for Service," in fifty-five different fittings. The Trousers that conform to the figure, giving ample room for play. In three shades of Grey, and in White **13/-**

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By adopting my simple system you can put inches on to your height in three months. **No apparatus. No Medicines. Ordinary habits retained.** Send three penny stamps for particulars to:—

PROFESSOR PROWSE, Specialist in the Increase of Height, 23, North End Chambers, Croydon.

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MEN TO LEARN BIOSCOPE OPERATING.

For particulars, call or write Secretary.

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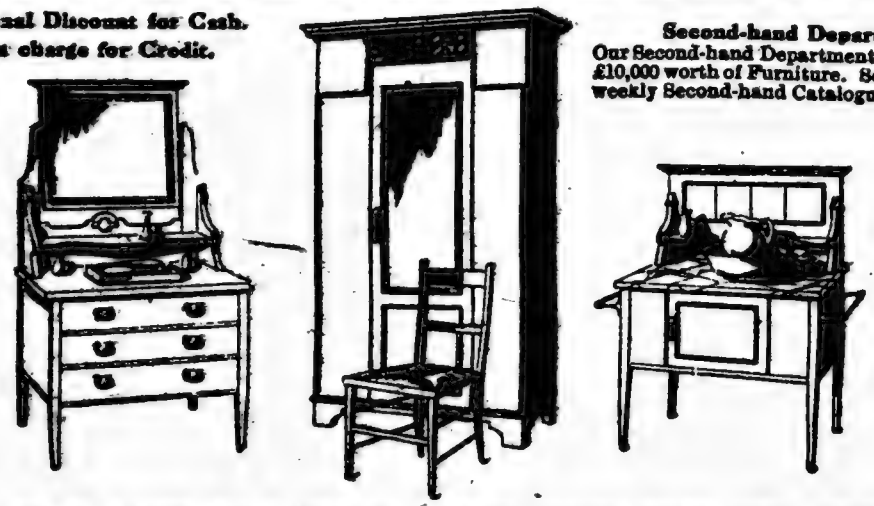

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John Bull's Letter Bag.

[The EDITOR replies to, and has a chat with, some of his numerous correspondents.]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Will readers, when forwarding cuttings from newspapers, take care that in each case a sufficient portion is sent to identify the name of the paper and the date of issue?

CORRESPONDENTS, when writing regarding previous communications which they may have addressed to us, should always mention the nature of the matter therein referred to. Owing to the great increase in the number of ENQUIRIES *received consequent upon the abnormal growth in our circulation, it is no longer possible to answer them all in "Letter Bag," and* ONLY THOSE OF GENERAL INTEREST *will be noticed. The Editor will, of course, still be grateful for information, "biscuit" material, newspaper cuttings, etc.*

AUTHORS and ARTISTS *submitting MSS. and drawings for consideration must write name and address upon the back of their work. The Editor cannot accept any responsibility for the safe custody of MSS., etc., so forwarded, but will endeavour to return unaccepted work* WHEN STAMPED, ADDRESSED ENVELOPE IS ATTACHED TO THE MANUSCRIPT. ALL MATTER SUBMITTED MUST BE ORIGINAL UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED. *The most suitable lengths for articles and stories are about 750 words (one column), or 1,500 words (a page).*

The EDITOR *cannot express any opinion upon the value of postage stamps, old china, pictures, coins, books, etc.*

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SEND ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES, TESTIMONIALS, ETC., *as, though every effort is made for their safe custody, they are liable to be mislaid. Copies only of such documents should be forwarded in the first instance.*

CORRESPONDENTS desiring INFORMATION *should place their questions in* CONCISE *form and refrain from sending* VOLUMINOUS DOCUMENTS, *at any rate until asked for them. The Editor is quite unable to devote the time necessary for perusing and considering the scores of folios which correspondents sometimes send.*

For Financial and Insurance Replies, see page 952.
For Sporting Replies, see page 956.

M. S. (Yarmouth).—We are too busy with our own competitions to trouble ourselves about those of our contemporaries. The moral of your complaint, however, is to stick to JOHN BULL.

MRS. L. J. Y.—Thanks for the pretty flowers you sent us.

T. W. B. (Leicester).—Our political activities are in a state of suspended animation till the Autumn.

"CINEMA" (Brixton) asked in our last issue if Clement Blake and Day, of 40, Chancery Lane, W.C., were a straightforward firm. In response, one of the principals has called upon us and informed us that as transfer agents they never ask for fees from either buyer or seller until the transaction is complete, and produced a number of testimonials as to their *bona fides*.

T. D. (London) is anxious for us to press forward our suggestion for a Crystal Palace racecourse. What says Lord Plymouth?

J. G. (Nottingham).—If you are not doing well at your trade in Nottingham, and you have no one to think of except yourself, and a relative by marriage will find you a more remunerative situation in New Zealand, then, in your place, we should probably be induced to go there.

A. T. A. (Manchester).—Like many others, you think that if prisoners, presumably in their right minds, elect to starve rather than partake of the bountiful fare provided for them in His Majesty's prisons, they should be permitted to do so. But that is not the sort of "happy release" they are after, you know.

"INSULTED" (Middlesbro').—Console yourself with the knowledge that you are not the first to be gratuitously insulted by the Manager of a Labour Exchange—nor will you be the last.

D. R. (Manchester) warns would-be wireless telegraph operators to have their hearing thoroughly tested before parting with money for courses of instruction. Otherwise they may find, as he did, that they have paid a fee for acquiring what is, owing to a very slight physical defect, an impossible art.

"AGRICOLA" (Malton) wants to know whether he could stand as a parliamentary candidate "on the cheap," and inquires who pays the Returning Officer's expenses. The candidates do, and they have to fork out in advance. The cost depends upon the constituency. Anything from £200 to £1,000 might cover it. But if "Agricola" would make a good Business Government candidate—well, the League might pay.

"ANTI-SWEAT" (Hull).—"It must be patent to anybody except a born fool that 100 patients a day on top of a doctor's private practice is incompatible with anything approaching efficiency." Quite so. Reminds you of the patients of Job, doesn't it?

P. S. (Liverpool).—If, as you say, the Railway Season Ticket and Finance Society, Ltd., 20, Coleman Street, E.C., can afford to allow 4s. commission for every pound advanced, up to and including £5, to those introducing loan business to them, the interest the "poor beggars" who borrow have to pay must be horrible.

JOHN HALL AND SONS (Bristol and London).—We thank you for thanking us for the biscuit we recently awarded your firm.

M. W.—"My husband," you say, "sent a lot of papers up to you on Wrinkles." And, if we rightly recall, we gave him some wrinkles but no papers.

S. Mc. F. (Bo'ness)—As the street-corner Socialists are always besting you in argument, you put this to us:—"So I want you to send me anything you have in the reading line about the Business Government line, as that is what I argue on, because I want to knock holes into them and keep my end up and yours also." Wait for the "Business Government Handbook."

H. M. (Barrow-in-Furness).—"I will tell you a queer truth," you write. "When I worked in the mill the machine-oiler was deaf and dumb. He was off work very ill. When he was able to come to the mill the weaver next to me went in search of the overlooker. Seeing him along with the dummy, she comes back saying, 'What do you think? Dummy's talking to Jack.'" We will take another week to think over this, dearie, and then we will laugh a huge laugh—if poss.

W. F. L. (Cork).—Why suspect a case of the White Slave Traffic? Your maid has apparently been in communication at some time or other with somebody now carrying on the registry office. If you have any doubt about the *bona fides* of the lady, write to Mr. A. L. McIlwaine, Secretary of Associated Societies for the Protection of Women and Children, 60, Haymarket, London, S.W.

R. A. (Alton, Hants).—You had serious thoughts of going to Canada, but our criticisms of the Great Emigration Lie have "put you off." Sensible man! In general, "a working chap" who can succeed in Canada can succeed in England, where he hasn't to travel about 500 miles through nowhere before he finds another fellow tae h'ae a crack wi'.

J. S. (Edmonton).—We are not the Mr. H. Bottomley, of Lillie Road, Fulham, to whose communication to the *Confectioners' Union* you were good enough to direct our attention. We have given up confectionery.

E. P. (Sheffield).—The "People's Legal Aid Society," of 190, Fleet Street, E.C., seems to be chiefly intended to aid itself, and the men it sends out collecting penny subscriptions for membership should be bidden to go to Jericho.

L. C., AGED 13 (Sharron).—Our effusive thanks to you for sending us a short verse which you thought might be suitable for our paper. This is the verse: "If I were Mrs. Pankhurst, I would, I would, I'd write a composition true, On what my Suffragettes can do, I would, I would, If I were Mrs. Pankhurst." On the other hand, if we were your papa, we would, we would!

W. V. S. L. (Dundee).—The bill presented to you by the management of the Imperial Hotel, Aberdeen, "Personally patronised by the Royal Family and Court," amounted to 13s. only for two days: "Dinners, 4s. 6d.; wines, 2s. 6d.; cigars, 6d.; apartments, 4s. 6d.; teas, 6d.; baths, 6d." We had no idea the Royal Family and Court did themselves on such exceedingly moderate terms.

M. S. (Leeds).—You evidently have not long been a reader, or you would know that the Jewish method of slaughtering was discussed from all points in our columns for weeks on end.

G. W. S. (Sheffield).—It is not possible for us to constitute ourselves arbitrators between your daughter and Messrs. Watson in regard to questions arising out of their soap wrapper competition. We can only repeat that they appear to have been singularly unfortunate in the dissatisfaction of so many of their competitors.

P. VAN D. (Hampstead).—You say you do not understand how we keep so merry and bright. There is neither magic nor miracle in it, good sir. You remember what Dr. Johnson says in *Rasselas*: "A man used to vicissitudes is not easily dejected"?

MRS. C. A. (Leith).—Your beautiful "Thoughts" to hand: "Those five-pound notes you have offered, sir, I know there's many a one will stir, There's many a one who Bullets tries, Might get a chance who otherwise, Out of the mire could never rise, Those five-pound notes will be easily got, A little time a little thought." The delicious delirium of the poetic spell is unfortunately broken by that last rhyme, which is rather wobbly in the feet. If you had written, "Those £5 notes will be easily got, If only you can touch the spot," we would have recommended you as Poet Laureate.

Another £50 for a "Mauve" Coupon.

A Distinct and EXTRA Cricket Prize.

J. D. S. (Darwen) wants to know "Who is the Head of the Seventh Day Adventists that have Works, etc., at Watford." Neither the Seventh Day Adventists nor their works interest us. Inquire of the Watford police.

H. B. (Manchester) refers to the crowded condition of certain cross-Channel steamers and the lack of lifeboat accommodation. He says, "It is twelve months since the *Titanic* disaster. Will our Board of Trade never learn?" We will ask the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Speaker of the Irish Parliament.

"JOHN BULL LEAGUER" (Portsmouth) complains because we recently printed the First Lord's name "Winston £ Churchill," and asks, "How much is he worth?" A quid, obviously.

A. V. (Brixham) takes great exception to our strictures in regard to the training ship *Mount Edgcumbe*. He says we are not fair to the smack-owners, when we hide from our readers that, in addition to the 2s. a week they pay the boys they get from the training ship, they supply board and lodging. But why state the obvious? A lad at sea on a fishing smack doesn't come ashore or jump overboard to get a night's rest and something to eat. And 2s. a week would certainly not be sufficient to sustain even a *Mount Edgcumbe* boy.

"GUNNER" (Eastbourne) tells us that after serving twelve years in the Army he was discharged with an exemplary character. He obtained work as a porter, doorkeeper and carriage attendant at various well-known hotels, but was persuaded by official assurances of rosy conditions to go out to Australia, only to find—as our readers will not be surprised to learn—that he had indeed stepped into the fire. He has now managed to work his way home, but is urgently in need of employment. He is 32, of powerful build, and well educated, with references which are beyond reproach. Does any reader know of a job?

"READER" (Hornsey).—Perhaps the P.R. Foods Co., of Tottenham Lane, Hornsey, will inform us whether what you tell us is true—viz., that "they employ about nine girls from 8 o'clock a.m. to 6 p.m. for 5s. a week and add 1d. an hour overtime when they stay until 8 o'clock, sometimes 9 and 10 o'clock."

J. G. (Cork).—We note with interest that in the Gaelic football competition between the secondary schools in Connaught, one of the rules was to the effect that "No member of a team shall, while playing a match, speak any language but Irish." Judging by what we have heard of it, the Irish language is an excellent medium for the expression of one's feelings after a bad kick on the shin. The most innocent terms sound like awful expletives. So all's well.

H. A. D. (Bletchley Sands).—Are you editing this paper, or are we? Learn to write English yourself before accusing others of being unable to do so. You are one of the clever people who can always see the mote in a brother's eye, but never the beam in their own.

Miss E. B. (Wandsworth).—Sorry we have been unable to reach your letter before now. It is scandalous that having been away ill for a fortnight, with your wages stopped, you should have to write three times without avail for your insurance money. The administration of the Act is quite as sloppy as the Act itself, hence its general unpopularity. You have, of course, been paid by this time?

P. J. H. (Birmingham).—We have read the circular distributed in Birmingham by the Empire Supply Stores, of 182, Great Clowes Street, Manchester, and we agree that it reveals a low-down business. They should be scorned with many scorns.

A. D. (Dalston, N.E.).—As an upholsterer who has to use the rag flock every day, you agree with Mr. Thurman that it is alive with filth. "It does not require a hand-glass to see them; we can see them with the naked eyes." Pity you can't work and shut them. You recommend that Mr. John Burns should try his hand at a few chairs and see what he takes home with him. He is hereby requested so to do.

EVA H. (Leeds), "just fifteen," would "like to forward us a story which she has composed herself, 3,000 words in length." We have no room for stories of 3,000 words, by little girlies, dear.

W. G. (Wigan).—Quite right, the newspaper portraits of Mr. Cunliffe, owner of Aboyeur, remind one of how he should have looked before and after the race. We ourselves once felt the smile that won't come off.

JACK H. (Goole).—As ships "never pay" (so you have heard) you wish to know how shipowners get rich? By the tremendous turnover on their losses! Being an old sea-dog, no wonder you're a bit of a wag.

E. M. (Vancouver).—Thanks for information illustrating "the conditions of this so-called province, British Columbia, Canada."

R. W. (Enfield).—We saw an announcement the other day that the appeal of Lieut. Becker, of New York, was about to be heard.

"TANNHAUSER" (Jesmond).—We advise you to steer clear of Yankee or any other institutions undertaking to teach hypnotism. It is your guinea they want. You can learn hypnotism just as easily and more cheaply by practising on your wife—or the cat.

G. L. J. (Walthamstow).—It may seem hard to you, but we can easily understand that a landlord might object to letting a six or seven-roomed house to a tenant with a wife and a family of nine children. Why on earth did you have so many children when your wages, which you say are under 35s. a week, did not justify them? Is it your hobby?

A. M. B. (Ranmoor), having received an Award of Merit in our "Bullets" Competition sends us some verses of appreciation, of which the following specimen should suffice:—

An' I'm sure John Bull need not be told
He's the only bird that lays real eggs o' gold.

We were not aware that we belonged to the oviparous Order.

E. N. (Dover) assures us that she converted the Messiah to the belief in votes for women four years ago, and that consequently His coming will settle all the present suffragist difficulties. Having succeeded so far, she should now have a go at Mr. Asquith and the other "anti" Cabinet Ministers, for we fancy the millennium is still a long way off.

A. M. S. (Earl's Court).—This passage in the circular announcing the dinner of the Women Writers' Suffrage League is certainly peculiar: "In the course of the evening Mrs. Humphry Ward, in a short speech, will put the case for the anti-Suffragists, and Mrs. Flora Annie Steel, President of the Women Writers' League, for the Suffragists. There will be other entertainments."

T. B. (Hastings).—We have previously warned our readers against being deluded by Plant and Co., Stockport Road, Manchester, into the belief that they can earn an income by making incandescent mantles at home.

J. S. (Netheravon).—The vicar is entitled to demand four guineas as a fee for your having erected "a headstone with kerb" on your husband's grave. It is certainly exorbitant, but peradventure he is raising money on the dead to benefit the living.

A. B. (Balham).—"Although," you tell us, "JOHN BULL's exposure of the Expert Advertising Co.'s canvassers is fully justified as a specific instance, having friends working for that company I feel it is unfair it should be the only firm to receive attention in your columns. Let the poor old Expert alone or let 'em all have it." The fact of your having friends there has nothing to do with the case. We deal with complaints as they arise.

R. H. P. (Marylebone).—The "skylight and window repairer" who has notified you that "he has decided not to work for anybody, even partially, engaged in the liquor traffic" in the future is not worth a thought. Can't he trust himself?

"GUIDO" (Poplar).—We advise you and others that the advertisement of Stedman's Cinema School, 43-44, Great Windmill Street, Piccadilly Circus, W., alleging "A new way to earn £1 to £5 a day cinema acting" is grossly misleading. You will probably be better off by keeping the fees they ask for in your own pocket.

C. G. (Stepney).—If a horse gets disqualified and there is a sweepstake in the race, who is the winner of the sweepstakes? The horse declared the winner, of course.

J. C. T. (Leicester).—We note that C. Wells, Corridor Chambers, Leicester, advertises "£10 to £5,000 advanced by private lender on simple promissory note." Borrow £5,000 and give him a promissory note. We will go halves.

"SIMPLE SIMON" (Thornton Heath).—Congratulate you on not being tempted by the concern which calls itself L'Association de la Presse de Paris, 9 Rue de la Bourse. Monsieur Gaillard, Secretary, is apparently out flat-catching.

W. S. R. (St. George's, E.).—This is your query: Are the panel doctors trying to destroy the Insurance Bill? No, Bill; they are about the only people who are doing well out of it.

"ELSIE" (Q-V-st).—We have no information as to the "Compensation Recovery and Assessment Association, of 5, Featherstone Buildings, High Holborn," and cannot tell you whether the managers are, or are not, "closely associated with a solicitor working on commission."

A. S. P. (Cardiff).—If you take our advice you will put into the fire circulars left at your house to be called for by agents whose object is to induce you to purchase goods which are probably far from being worth the money.

R. S. J. (Portsmouth).—Certainly it is "legal for a County Court Judge to try a case and give judgment without wearing his wig and gown." It is a very sensible practice in the hot weather, and one which is now being widely adopted.

R. E. B. (Hither Green).—The lady will be well advised to have nothing to do with that employment agency on the terms mentioned.

(A large number of replies are held over.)

More Mammoth Cricket Prizes Won. For Winners see page 925.

Bull's Eyes.

NOTES OF INTERROGATION :—

Are the L.C.C. tramway "takings" going?
Have you seen *your* Fountain Pen on page 949?
Won't the Orangemen decline to be "squeezed"?
Hasn't the Insurance Act made a lot of folk "sick"?
Will John Burns "get home" with the Milk (Bill), after all?
Didn't the English polo team get a "whacking" reception?
Aren't certain Cabinet Ministers "sorry they *didn't* speak"?
Aren't the Unionists also speculating a little on "differences"?
Isn't the Wives' Trade Union the latest in feminine combinations?

* * * *

MUDDLED MUSINGS :—

If a BAT flies into your room—BOWL him out.
A musical vampire should be able to vamp well.
The most weary of all positions—the imposition.
Mummified cats can always be found in the catacombs.
A musical fisherman should be able to play the castanets.
Putting your money in trust is better than putting your trust in money.
The King Crab should make a most suitable bait for the King Fisher.
Maybe the man who boasts that he doesn't owe a coin in the world couldn't if he tried.
If a man were as cheap as almost any woman can make him feel, no woman could resist him merely as a bargain.

* * * *

TELEGRAPHIC EPIGRAMS :—

Copy-books are the mausoleums of good intentions.
When most people lend a hand they expect an arm in exchange.
Humanity is made in two patterns—but the qualities are innumerable.
How petty some past actions appear through the telescope of the present.
The rocket may laugh at the stick, but it is the latter which survives the fall.
We all have angels and beasts sleeping within. We awaken which we choose.
You can never convince a savage that the pen is mightier than the sword.
Incompetency—like a bad coin—may pass for a time, with cheek, but sooner or later it will come to the test.

* * * *

WORTHY THE V.C. :—

The man who contradicts the preacher on a point of fact.
The young husband who discharges the twenty-stone cook.
The customer who allows the barber's apprentice to shave him.
The man who smokes three of the cigars given him by his wife.
The office-boy who leaves "Deadwood Dick" uncovered on his desk.
The clerk who asks for time to bury his grandmother—on Derby Day.
The teetotaler who refuses iced claret, with the thermometer at 90° in the shade.

* * *

PESSIMISTS :—

The candidate who orders no fireworks.
The lad who buys a cigar and a headache powder.
The man out on bail who sells his watch and bicycle.
The wife who refuses to engage the pretty servant.
The man who puts on a lifebelt when going for a row.
The prospective debt collector taking lessons in boxing.
The young husband who insures against a double event.
The youth who buys a razor and a yard of sticking plaster.
The man who takes a sleeping tabloid just before the sermon.
The bridegroom who secretly buys a bottle of indigestion mixture.
The schoolboy who stuffs a leather apron in the seat of his breeches.

* * *

ALTERNATIVE BOOK-TITLES :—

The Human Boy.—X.
Yeast.—Buying for a Rise.
Iv-an-hoe.—All Among the Turnips.
The Brass Bottle.—Mumm's the Word.
The Tinted Venus.—Piccadilly by Night.
Self-Help.—The Pickpocket's Vade-mecum.
Adam Bede.—The Chorus Lady's false Pearl.
Lest We Forget.—Autobiography of a Shirt Cuff.
Pilgrim's Progress.—The Great Walking Handicap, by Bunion.

* * *

The creditors' eyes sparkled when they read that the assets consisted of a "Castle, Diamonds, a Stud, and several Horses." But the debtor was a humorist, and at the Meeting these proved to be, "a chess piece, some playing cards, a collar stud, and a toy box of soldiers."

Craganour's mount proved a gold Reiff to the bookies.

* * *

Photographic plates are to cost more. We don't care a "snap."

* * *

"Bishop as a strike settler," we read. Did he hide his black legs?

* * *

A pugilist is to appear as an actor. Will he refer to the stalls as the upper cut?

* * *

"No sweets of victory for Wells," says a writer on the recent fight. No, bitter Gaul.

* * *

"Discord amongst Musicians," we read. That is where we should expect to find it.

* * *

The girl 'bus conductor of Woking must be a good deal "run after" by the other sex.

* * *

A French astronomer predicts that wet summers are to disappear until 1935. All very fine!

* * *

In Essex a duck has been hatched with three legs. Nature trying to adjust that waddle at last.

* * *

"Before marriage woman is bait," says a writer. But she gets "snapped at" after, sometimes.

* * *

Boy Scouts are doing domestics' work in Dorset. Preparing to make a clean sweep of the enemy?

* * *

"Oh, what a miss-fortune," as the inveterate punster remarked when the heiress refused him.

* * *

"The greatest joy in life is the joy of being 'next'," says a new book. Except at the dentist's.

* * *

"Nothing can stay the drama," says Sir J. Forbes Robertson. But we have all heard of stage "props."

* * *

Roosevelt's strongest expletive is said to be "By Codfrey!" Lucky for him he is not an English Minister.

* * *

"Duck's nest in a tree," we read. During the cricket season ducks and willows are too often associated.

* * *

The manufacturer of canine commodities can always truthfully say that his business is "going to the dogs."

* * *

The headline, "Caterpillars Stop Trains," does not—curiously enough—refer to any of our suburban lines.

* * *

"How to live within your income" is the title of an article. How to live without one would be more to the purpose.

* * *

The strike in the tea-pot trade has been settled. This will prevent the workers putting further things up the spout.

* * *

A correspondent says that the "Tube" officials are the rudest men in London. He seems to forget that they are very low.

* * *

Paris has twenty-seven lady advocates, but London can boast of hundreds of women who are taking the law into their own hands.

* * *

Ties with photographs of musical comedy actresses are about to be placed on the market. Some men have ties of this description they would like to be rid of.

* * *

A motor-cyclist at Aldershot pleaded that he could not produce his licence because his dog had eaten it. Some dogs—and magistrates—will swallow anything.

* * *

A summons was granted at Willesden against a man who was alleged to have kissed his landlady when she called for the rent. A bit of lip is common on such occasions.

* * *

"The human body contains sufficient phosphorus to make thousands of matches," says a scientist. Yet so many dear creatures are not luminous enough to make *one*.

* * *

Should Alfred Noyes be Laureate?
The answer is hard to guess:
For part of his surname answers "No,"
But the greater part says "Yes."

* * *

'Twas fitting, after Wednesday's hoax,
Had left us all depressed;
That Friday's Oaks should make amends,
By bringing in a Jest.

Don't Omit to Cut Out the Pen Coupon This Week on page 3 of Cover.

OUR NEW CRICKET CONTEST BEGINS THIS WEEK.

£1,000!

FOR ALL FORECASTS CORRECT.

The Biggest Cricket Prize Offer made by any Paper

THIS week we commence our Fourth Cricket Contest. Again we offer the world's record cricket prize of £1,000, and huge cash contingent prizes, including £50 for a "Mauve" Coupon. See below. Every cricket enthusiast should enter. Our Competitors' Guide, given with the coupon, will help you.

WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO.

On page 2 of our cover you will find a coupon giving matches which will be played on dates between July 14th and July 28th.

Cross out in ink the club you think will *lose*. If you predict a draw do not cross out either club.

Matches commenced and unfinished count as draws. If both sides score an equal number of runs the match will be regarded as being drawn.

Matches not commenced at all, not a single ball being bowled, will be ignored. Thus—

ABANDONED MATCHES MAKE NO DIFFERENCE.

£150 For Nearest Forecasts Short of Full Number.

£75 For Next Highest.

£50 For a Mauve Coupon.

£1,000 will be paid to the competitor sending us an Entrance Form giving a correct forecast of all the matches given. In the unlikely event of no entrance form being received containing all the correct forecasts, we shall award the huge sum of **£150 IN CASH** to the competitor sending most correct forecasts, even if the number be only 8 or 10. *In addition* we shall award **£75 IN CASH** to the competitor sending in the next highest number of correct forecasts.

You can send in as many entries as you like. Any number of entries may be enclosed in the same envelope.

Friends can send their entries together in one envelope, but EVERY coupon must be signed in ink by its respective sender.

The competition is one of skill, and we recommend readers to study the cricket columns of the daily papers.

As a guide to competitors we give with the coupon on page 2 of cover last year's results of the matches we have selected for this competition.

READ THESE RULES CAREFULLY.

1. On the Entrance Form on page 2 of our cover cross out in ink by running a pen through the names, the clubs you think will lose. If you predict a DRAW do not cross out either club.
2. Having done this, write in ink (typewriting or pencilling will not do) your name and address in the space provided, cut out the Entrance Form, and address it to "JOHN BULL," 25, Floral Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C., mark envelope in top left-hand corner, Cricket Competition, NO. 4, so as to reach us not later than first post **Monday, July 14th**, but please send early to facilitate the work of examination.
3. The £1,000 cash prize will be awarded to the competitor whose Entry Form contains the correct results of all the matches, as published in the "Sporting Life."
4. In the event of no Entrance Form containing all the correct results, £150 will be awarded to the sender of the Entrance Form containing the largest number of correct forecasts, short of the full number, and £75 to the sender of the next highest number of correct forecasts.

THE COUPON

will be found

ON THE INSIDE FRONT COVER.

£50 Cash

FOR A

"MAUVE" Coupon.

Our Special Cricket Prize for a "Mauve" Coupon has proved so popular that once more we offer £50 for the Best Forecasts received from a Lady using a "Mary Bull" "Mauve" Coupon. We invite all our lady readers to enter, and every male reader of "John Bull" should extend our invitation to his own particular lady friends. What a splendid surprise for the wife, daughter, sister or fiancee our special £50 prize cheque would be! Remember, a "Mauve" Coupon has an equal opportunity of carrying off the £1,000, or the contingent prizes of £150 and £75. The £50 lady's prize is a distinct and extra award. The first "Mauve" Coupon is in "Mary Bull," on sale Friday, June 27th. Don't miss it.

READ THESE RULES CAREFULLY.

In addition a distinct cash prize of £50 will be awarded to the lady sending most correct forecasts on a MAUVE COUPON taken from MARY BULL.

5. No responsibility will be accepted by the Editor for the loss or non-delivery of any effort, and no correspondence will be entered into, neither will interviews be granted. But the utmost care will be taken of all coupons received.
6. The Editor's published decision on all matters relating to this competition is final and legally binding, and competitors may enter only on this understanding.
7. Any effort on which an alteration of any description has been made will be disqualified. Entrance Forms must be cut, not torn out.
8. In the event of a tie or ties in this competition the £1,000 prize or the contingent prizes of £150 and £75, as well as the special £50 ladies' prize, will be equally divided. Should more than two competitors tie for the £150, the right is reserved to amalgamate the two contingent prizes of £150 and £75.

After you have filled up your entries for this competition, turn to page 974 where you will find particulars of "Bullets," a simple and attractive Competition which you should not fail to enter. A first prize of £500 in cash is offered this week, in addition to more than 5,000 cash and other valuable prizes.

YOU SHOULD ENTER THIS WEEK. DON'T DELAY!

DISTINCTIVE TERMS.

By Cynic.

Joy bubbling out of every pore of his body, he was strolling down the street when he met a friend. He stopped, and after cordially shaking him by the hand, gave him one of those beaming smiles that generally precede a request for a small loan. The friend recognised the smile as an old acquaintance, and was not surprised when the joyful one said—

"Say, old man, have you got a tenner on you?"

"Sorry, I can't lend you anything to-day," he said. "I'm just going to draw from my bank myself. I haven't a pound on me."

"Hang it," was the surprising answer, "I don't want to borrow. I want to change a cheque; perhaps you'll do it for me if you're going to the bank."

"What Jew money-lender?" was the query, for the man knew his friend.

"A Hebrew gentleman has obliged me temporarily," corrected the other.

The Check.

After months had elapsed the friend again met the borrower, but this time he had a sorrowful mien and an ugly temper.

"What's up?" he asked, and his friend showed him a county-court summons. The money-lender had allowed time until he was impatient; then he determined to put a check on the debtor's procrastinating habits.

"What, your Hebrew friend?" asked the man, in surprise.

"Yes, that damned Jew!" was the reply.

OUR 35TH "BULLETS" COMPETITION.

A HULL SCHOOLMASTER GAINS £500.

Mr. A. George Ellams, of 76, Lee Street, Hull, the winner of the £500 prize in our 35th "Bullets" Competition, tells us that, although he had long been a regular reader of John Bull, he had sent in coupons in the competition about eight times only. He had, however, frequently thought out suitable phrases for the examples given, this being a favourite hobby. Mr. Ellams is a teacher by profession, having been in the service of the Hull Education Committee for over 20 years as pupil-teacher and certificated assistant master. He is married and has a family of four, three girls and a boy—all of tender age. His youngest daughter handed him the letter containing the glad tidings, and she now feels very proud when she tells everyone how she brought the wonderful news to father! Mr. Ellams wisely intends to invest his windfall for the benefit of his little family. He has naturally been the recipient of a shower of congratulations from neighbours and other friends, while many of his past and present students have hastened to felicitate their mentor upon the magnificent reward which has attended his skill in a sphere remote from scholastic work.

The original of the above cheque will be on view at the premises of Mr. Todd, 38, Waterworks Street, Hull, until June 28th, and thence until July 2nd at those of Mr. J. Richardson, 56, Holderness Road, Hull. The cheque for the second prize of £50 will be displayed until July 1st by Messrs. Roberts and Sons, 30, Camden Road, Camden Town, N.W.

Beauty Collection.

CUTTINGS FROM BEAUTY ARTICLES. THE CREAM OF MODERN BEAUTY ADVICE.

"Wavy" Shampoos.

"Homely Hints."

Few people know that stallax can be used as a shampoo and is far better than anything else for the purpose. It seems to have a natural affinity for the hair, leaving it very glossy, fluffy, and with a pronounced natural "wave." A teaspoonful of stallax granules, dissolved in a cup of hot water, is more than sufficient. Genuine stallax comes to the chemist only in sealed tins, a quantity sufficient to make up twenty-five or thirty separate shampoos. The indescribable lustre it imparts to the hair is quite inimitable. * * * For an actual hair grower nothing equals pure boranium. It is quite harmless, and sets the hair roots tingling with new life. * * * The use of rouge is almost always obvious, but powdered colliandum gives a perfectly natural colour and defies detection.

The Powder Puff Passes.

"Boudoir Talks."

Every normal woman is always interested in any plan by which she can quickly enhance her beauty, provided the plan is perfectly safe and simple. Ever since the discovery that ordinary cleminite, such as any chemist can supply, is an instantaneous and harmless beautifier, there has been a growing demand for it from smart women everywhere. They usually get about an ounce and add just enough water to dissolve it. A little of this perfectly harmless lotion gives a beautiful complexion to any face instantly. It renders face powder quite unnecessary. Moreover, its use cannot be detected. The skin is instantly beautified, but appears perfectly natural under the closest scrutiny. * * * To make the eyelashes grow long, dark and curling, apply a little mennaline with the finger tips occasionally. It is absolutely harmless and beautifies the eyebrows as well. * * * Pilenta soap is the most satisfactory for all complexions. It even works well in cold or hard water.

Effectually Killing Superfluous Hair.

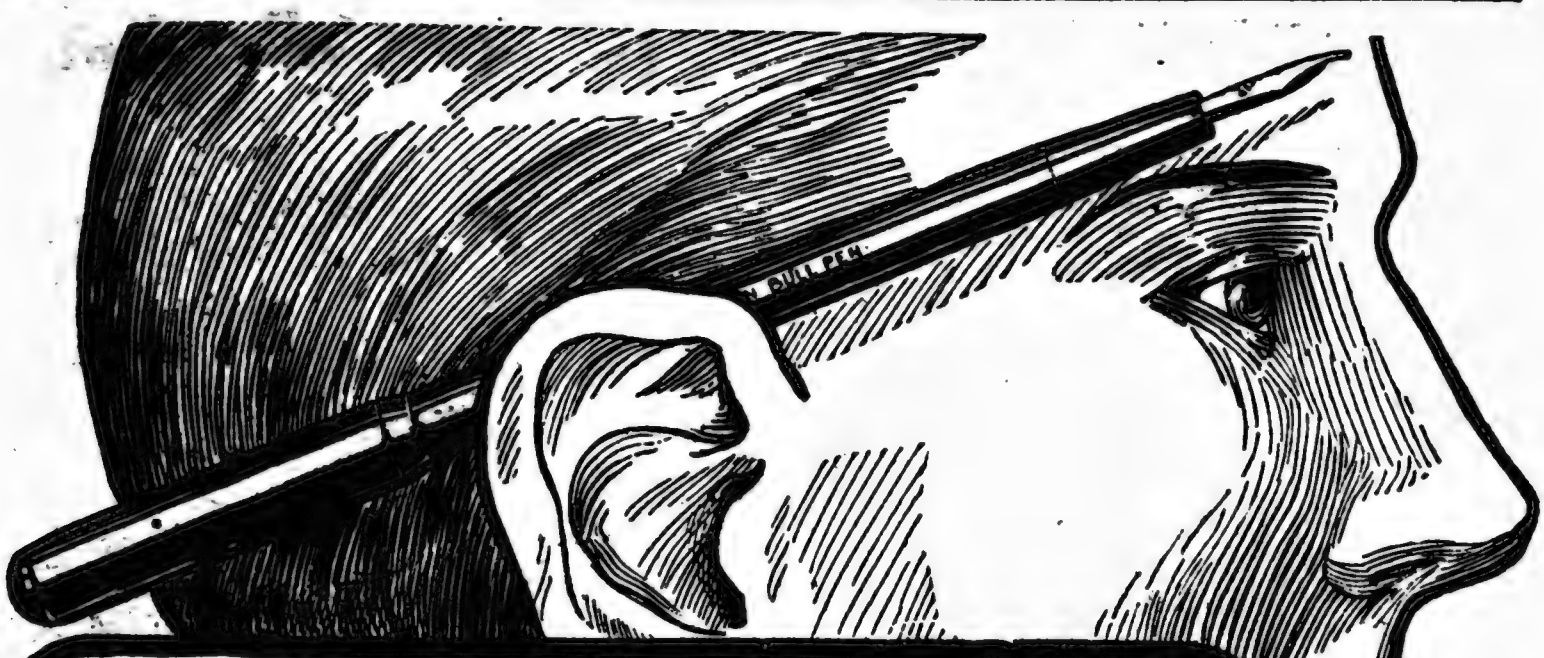
"Health and Beauty."

Many women know how to remove ugly growths of superfluous hair temporarily, but few know how to remove it permanently. For this purpose pure powdered pheminol may be used. Get about an ounce from your chemist and apply a little directly to the objectionable hair. The purpose of the recommended treatment is not merely to remove the superfluous hair instantly, but also to kill the hair roots completely in a comparatively short time. * * * Women who are annoyed by body or perspiration odours will appreciate the hint that a light dusting with powdered (white) pergol occasionally is an instantaneous corrective. * * * For oily complexions smart women are now using the natural allacite of orange blossoms as a greaseless cream. It holds powder perfectly, gives the face a cool, fresh appearance which lasts, and does not encourage growth of hair on the face.

Renewing Complexions with Oxygen.

"Handy Recipes."

Everyone knows that oxygen consumes waste matter in the body. A poor complexion is merely the accumulation of half-deadened, or waste matter, upon the surface of the skin. It sticks on stubbornly, showing in the form of sallowness, moth patches and a generally lifeless appearance. Oxygen may be used with advantage in removing this disfiguration. Any chemist should be able to supply mercolized wax. This contains oxygen in a form that is released when it comes in contact with the skin. Naturally the oxygen attacks the deadened matter, but does not affect the healthy skin at all. Thus a few applications of this perfectly harmless substance soon begin to clear the skin and reveal the beautiful complexion which every woman has just underneath the ugly one. The process is pleasant and harmless, and involves no inconvenience whatever. * * * To bring a natural red colour to the lips, rub them with a soft stick of prolactum. * * * For hot, tired or perspiring feet, use a teaspoonful of powdered onalite in a foot bath.



A Word in your Ear

EVERY READER of "JOHN BULL" is entitled to have one of our splendid half-guinea gold nibbed fountain pens. They are being made for us in England, specially to advertise "JOHN BULL." When we first announced this great offer a fortnight ago, it caused the greatest surprise that we should attempt so vast an undertaking as the supplying of this magnificent souvenir to over 1,000,000 readers. We believe in doing well anything that is worth doing at all. That is why the pen is British made and fitted with a 14 ct. gold nib, and more important still, that is why those who have already received their pens are delighted, and write us very complimentary letters about them. Make sure of your own pen, read the conditions, and start to get one at once.

OUR OFFER.—Every week a coupon will be found in "JOHN BULL" similar to that on page 3 of the cover of this issue. A similar coupon will also appear weekly in "MARY BULL." One coupon entitles the holder to obtain one of our splendid "JOHN BULL" Gold-Nibbed Fountain Pens for 2/6, but each additional coupon up to twelve will count as one penny off the cost of the pen. You may save the coupons from either paper until you have twelve more (any dates) sending thirteen in all, and p.o. for only 1/6 (with 1d. stamp for postage) to Pen Dept., "JOHN BULL," Long Acre, London, W.C.

CITY NOTES.

[*For Financial and Insurance Letter Box, see page 952.*]

The Stock Markets.

The recent improvement has again been knocked on the head by the overwhelming liquidation forced by the banks, who are evidently determined to thoroughly clear the position, and at the same time to indulge in their usual half-yearly window-dressing. Things should right themselves eventually, but in the meantime, there are three or four days of acute anxiety to be passed through. Better late than never, the Canadian banks are at last taking steps to effectually check the over-borrowing of Canada, and they are, apparently, discriminating against the stocks controlled by a certain group which has been endeavouring to make itself all-powerful in the Dominion. This group has not only been launching out considerably in Canada, but has also largely concerned itself in various public utility stocks, in which, at the best of times, there has never been a free market. The collapse has brought down even the highest class of investment securities, which ordinarily would have been able to stand on their own merits. Stocks which have more particularly suffered through forced closing have been gilt-edged securities:—Home Rails, Trunks, Mexican Rails and Kaffirs, more particularly Chartered. Another market which has been badly knocked about is that for copper shares, and it is believed that a powerful American Continental syndicate is endeavouring to force down the price of copper for its own purposes. Hence the fall in Tintos and Amalgamateds. Tin has had a severe fall, but there is a big Bear account, and whenever the American consumers recommence purchases there should be an equally sharp recovery. With rubber below 3s. per lb., the position of the older rubber-producing companies is getting dangerous, and there has consequently been a decided collapse in shares of the type of the Linggi, Vallambrosa, and Highlands. At the same time, those who are investing in the young producing companies, with a low market capitalisation per planted acre, should do well eventually.

Piling Pig Upon Pork.

As if there were not quite sufficient Kent coal trust companies in operation already, somebody at 30 and 31, Great Queen Street, E.C., has conceived the idea of forming the Kent Coal Development Trust, Ltd., with Mr. Norman G. Hill as chairman "for the special purpose of organising a new and important undertaking" which turns out to be a scheme whereby the directors are to be entrusted with the money of other people in order to finance Kent coal companies. The literature of this syndicate is, curiously enough, intended for stockholders in the London, Chatham and Dover Railway, the very last persons likely to respond, as their interest in the railway will, without further expenditure, bring them all the benefit they may reasonably desire should success attend the operations of the Kent coal companies. As for those readers who are not interested in the undertakings of Mr. Arthur Burr and others operating in Kent, we would advise them to have nothing to do with them, at the present stage at any rate. There will be plenty of opportunities for backing Kent coal when it has been proved to be of commercial value. By the way, why should it be required that cheques for shares in the Kent Coal Development Trust be made out to "Bearer"?

"Savax" Ladder Support.

An apparatus which makes the use of ladders perfectly safe and saves a great deal of labour, must be an important and valuable commercial asset, especially when a parent company under the management of experienced business men undertakes the practical working of the invention. The Savax Ladder Support (Parent Company), Ltd., has just been incorporated, with one thousand founders' shares of £5 each, and judging from the particulars we have seen and the comments of the trade Press on the necessity and usefulness of the invention, the prospects of the concern should be good. Any of our readers who would like further details concerning the company should write to the Secretary of the Midland and Northern Industries, Limited, 15-17, Eldon Street, E.C.

Oil in South Africa.

Everything points to the early justification of the views we have frequently expressed respecting the importance of the great project of the Consolidated Oil Fields of South Africa, Ltd., the pioneers of the oil industry of the Cape. Mr. Cunningham Craig, the Government oil expert, is now, we believe, in the Ceres district, surveying the properties of the company on behalf of the Union Government.

Potted "Potter."

In our issue of April 26 we referred to the Trust and Development Company of Home and Foreign Industries, Ltd., which the versatile Mr. J. Potter had been running at 26, Shaftesbury Avenue, London, and which had been placed in compulsory liquidation upon the application of Lord Tenterden, the chairman of the company, who had complained to the Court about Potter's conduct. We now find that this company, with the long-winded title, had a nominal capital of £2,000, and that amongst its promotions was the Desiccated Food Company, Limited. To "desiccate" means to evaporate, and this appears to have been the fate of most of the concerns which Potter has taken in hand.

A Mysterious Life Insurance Company.

One of our readers tells us that his son, who is seeking a situation, answered an advertisement in the *Daily Telegraph* for an outdoor clerk in an estate agent's office, the address given being A. J. Best, 64, Haymarket, S.W. On calling there he saw someone whom he took to be Mr. Best, and who said they wanted a representative to canvass for the Commonwealth Life Insurance Co. He was offered £3 a week and commission, provided that he took up ten shares in the company at a cost of about £283. Our correspondent sends us a pamphlet presumably issued by the Commonwealth Life Insurance Company, from which we gather that it is "in course of organisation," but no particulars are given of its capital, it merely being stated that the shares are to be sold at a premium of £7 3s. 9½d. and that "the company will begin business as soon as £61,601 13s. 0½d. (note the precision) of their capital has been subscribed, and £2 1s. 1d. per share paid on capital, and the premium in addition." We further gather that the last £41,067 15s. 5½d. of the stock will be offered at a premium of upwards of 100 per cent. A list of provisional directors, consisting of an ex-alderman and contractor, an insurance manager, a physician, a fruit grower and a merchant tailor and draper, is given with an intimation that a strong directorate will be elected by the shareholders. We trust that none of our readers have been foolish enough to allow themselves to be included in the latter category.

Elswick-Hopper Cycle and Motor Co.

This would appear to be a moderately-capitalised concern which is acquiring the old-established cycle manufacturing businesses of F. Hopper and Co., Ltd., and the Elswick Cycle Manufacturing Co.—both of Barton-on-Humber. It is stated that the works of the former cover 7½ acres of land and are conveniently situated close to the ports of Grimsby, Hull and Immingham, thereby giving the undertaking great advantages over other competitors for foreign business. The profits for the past three years are substantial and steadily progressive, and it is estimated that those for the present year will not be less than £20,000. The shares seem to be an attractive investment.

Sales by Private Owners.

We are pleased to notice that the financial Press is at last awakening to the great increase in offers of shares and debentures by unnamed purchasers from joint-stock companies and not by the companies themselves. One of the many objections that may be raised against this practice is, that purchasers, in these conditions, have no redress against the directors should the representations contained in the "particulars" be found to be untrue. More often than not, the group offloading their holdings in this fashion form themselves into a small syndicate with limited liability, expressly for the purposes of the deal, and then wind up the syndicate, thus putting it out of the power of any aggrieved person to obtain satisfaction.

A Geneva "Swiss" Ie.

"Messrs. Anderson, Stirling and Co.," of 15, Rue Plantamour, Geneva, have reduced bucket-shop business to the simplest system. No longer need the punter vex his soul about pretending he is buying stocks or shares; no longer need he worry about contangos, carrying-over, differences, or other Stock Exchange snares. All he has to do is to select the names of any stocks printed on "Anderson Stirling and Co.'s" list and bet that they will either rise, fall or remain unchanged within a certain period. There is no pretence that this "new method" is any better than if two men were to wager on which of two lumps of sugar a fly will settle first; but in this instance, at any rate, the other party to the bet would be present and could be made to disgorge if he lost. In the case of "Anderson, Stirling and Co.," the client might be obliged to travel to Geneva to collect the stake—and then might *not* get it.

Your Knowledge of Cricket Form may Win you £1,000. New Competition. See page 947.

Oil Within the Empire.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

CONCERNING

THE CONSOLIDATED OIL FIELDS OF SOUTH AFRICA, LTD.

A SHARE POSSESSING ENORMOUS POTENTIALITIES.

Highly important news is just to hand from Johannesburg to the effect that the South African Government, having regard to the active interest shown by the Consolidated Oil Fields of South Africa, Limited, in developing the Oil potentialities of the Ceres district, have decided to set aside a fund for the systematic investigation of properties upon which specific Oil indications are reported.

* * * * * *

Mr. E. H. Cunningham Craig, the British Government Oil Expert, has been commissioned by the South African Government to make a thorough inspection of reputed Oil-bearing districts in the Union, and he is now in South Africa for that purpose.

* * * * * *

As already stated in this page, Mr. J. E. MILLS-DAVIES, one of South Africa's leading geologists and mining engineers, has recently returned from an inspection of the properties in the Ceres district, Cape Province, controlled by the Consolidated Oil Fields of South Africa, Ltd., and has reported most favourably regarding the Oil prospects.

* * * * * *

Mr. MILLS-DAVIES has just returned from a second visit to the properties, in company with a representative of the well-known engineering firm of Messrs. Fraser and Chalmers, of London and Johannesburg, and has arranged, with that firm, for boring operations to be immediately commenced under his personal supervision.

* * * * * *

Although the Consolidated Oil Fields of South Africa has provided for ample capital, it is evident from the active interest in the Oil potentialities of South Africa now being taken by the South African Government, that the operations of this important pioneer Company would not be allowed to cease through lack of financial support, a successful issue being of vital interest to the Empire.

* * * * * *

The capital of the Company is £250,000, including £50,000 working capital.

* * * * * *

The Company is a parent undertaking, its policy being to dispose of Oil rights, over given areas, to subsidiary Companies, retaining a substantial interest in them.

* * * * * *

The potentialities of the Company are enormous. According to a leading American authority its £1 shares may easily attain the value of £200 from its Oil rights alone.

* * * * * *

Investors and others interested will be supplied with full particulars on application.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN PETROLEUM EXPLORATION SYNDICATE, LTD.
80, Coleman Street, London, E.C.

JOHN BULL'S FINANCIAL AND INSURANCE LETTER-BOX.

Letters containing enquiries must be addressed to the City Editor, JOHN BULL, 52, New Broad Street, E.C. The names and addresses of correspondents must be enclosed, not, of course, for publication, but in token of good faith. Anonymous communications will be disregarded.

A Postal Order for 1s. must accompany each Financial or Insurance Enquiry.

THREE SECURITIES.—SAFETY.—(1) A sound Trust Company security, but ranking only as second-class. (2) This Debenture stock is, of course, prior in rank to such Preferences as No. 1, but the yield is correspondingly less. (3) Not exactly gilt-edged, but safe enough.

ROBINSON AND CO. (Southampton Row, W.C.).—M. S. (South Tottenham).—From the further particulars you send us it is evident these people are still endeavouring to get money from the public on "deals" in Canadian Pacifics. We can only repeat our warning: have nothing to do with them.

GALICIAN STANDARD OIL MINING CO.—A. T. (Birmingham).—No such enterprise can be described as a "safe investment," but we think well of its prospects as a speculative purchase.——MOTOR.—See above.

MOTOR PETROL.—W. M. G. (Leytonstone).—We do not recommend the investment. Some of these concerns set out to accomplish more than they can reasonably do. There is no regular market in the shares.

AYWARA RUBBER AND COTTON.—C. W. P.—Your holding is valueless. The Company is in liquidation under the supervision of the Court.

HOTEL CECIL.—LIBERATOR.—The Hotel Cecil is paying only part of the dividends on the Preference shares. The whole of the Ordinary shares are held by the United Realisation Co., which has not yet paid a dividend. You should write to the secretary of the Company, at 21, Ironmonger Lane, E.C., and ask him to tell you how you stand.

JAPANESE 4½ PER CENTS.—J. A. (Totnes).—There has been a fair recovery in the quotation, and the movement is expected to make further progress, in view of the great economies just introduced in Japanese national finance. You should hold for a further improvement.

SYNDICATE.—W. C. S. (Devon).—We do not like concerns which make a cash investment a condition for employment, and the Syndicate in question appears to have set out to accomplish a good deal. We strongly advise you not to put up any money until, at any rate, you have thoroughly satisfied yourself as to its bonâ fides. In any case, our opinion of the concern, on the face of it, is not favourable.

KAFFIRS.—NEMO.—With the least encouragement Kaffirs should all go better. In these circumstances we should advise you not to part with your holdings at the present low level, although they are not exactly the best selection. Do not average any further.

BONDS, ETC.—SARA HILL.—With regard to the first-mentioned matter, please communicate with the Editor personally. As regards the Kaffirs and Rhodesians (Nos. 1 and 2), these have declined in sympathy with the general downward movement, and there is no option now but to hold. The oil Company (No. 3) is now engaged upon important drilling operations, and everything depends upon the result. The last undertaking you mention has dropped out of the running for the time being, but should come forward again as soon as things generally revive.

MINING RECONSTRUCTION.—MACK.—In our opinion it would be throwing good money after bad to join this reconstruction. You could employ your money to better advantage.

NORTHERN NIGERIA.—A. B. P. (Musselburgh).—Nothing is known, either good or bad, with regard to these people, but we should advise caution before entrusting them with funds. If you want to invest in Nigerian Mines, buy the shares of established Companies, which are now generally at a very low level, and thus be quite on the safe side.

TRUST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (Paris).—A. G. (Mon.)—We have no information respecting this concern.

MUNICIPAL PERMANENT INVESTMENT BUILDING SOCIETY.—A SUFFERER.—We are constantly advising our readers to avoid making investments with Building Societies, and the unfortunate position in which you are placed only strengthens our conviction that such Societies by no means constitute an ideal repository for the savings of the working classes. You appear to have joined the Society in 1880, subscribing for 59 Ordinary £10 shares, and although you gave notice of withdrawal in 1907, you have not received your money, and are still on the list of members waiting until the money comes into hand applicable for the purpose of withdrawals. It is surely the duty of the Directors to tell you how much longer you will have to wait. The rules to which you direct our attention are most extraordinary and full of menace towards the depositing shareholder. Your case demands searching investigation, and we call upon the management of the Society for an explanation.

BRITISH UNION AND NATIONAL INSURANCE CO.—J. B. (South Norwood).—Although so recently as 1910 the business was described as "very satisfactory," and again in 1911 that "in consequence of the great increase in the Company's business", a call of 2s. 6d. per share was made, followed by other laudatory statements, these standing alone do not constitute a sufficiently strong ground for action to recover the monies paid. The decision to wind up and appoint a liquidator was announced in June, 1912. You may find it difficult to avoid meeting the remaining call of £25, but before making this payment we think you are entitled to a statement of accounts showing what has been done with the money and what has become of the assets. You had better repeat the enquiry you have already addressed to the liquidator.

SURRENDER VALUES.—C. B. (Wandsworth).—We should require to know the name of the Office, the age of the assured at entry, and the class of policy held, before we could properly answer your query. Minimum values range from one-third to one-half of the premiums paid. Progressive surrender values should be shown in schedule form on every policy issued.

LONDON UNITY OF ODDFELLOWS, PRIDE OF KENT LODGE.—H. S. (Holloway).—You inform us that your father joined in 1861 and has always paid his contributions regularly. Having attained the age of 89, he has had occasion to claim on the Sick Fund for more than two years past, having during that period made three applications, only to be informed that there are no funds wherewith to pay sick members. It is a hard case and calls for investigation. Ask the secretary of the Lodge to communicate with headquarters and obtain their instructions.

PEARL LIFE ASSURANCE CO.—CONSTANT READER.—The policies you hold on the lives of your father and mother, who have no knowledge of their existence, are legal, provided at the time of application you had a bonâ fide expectation that you would be called upon to incur expenses in connection with their death or funeral. You need not worry over the mistake in the ages—as it is against you—although it is always a wise rule to get the correct age endorsed on the policies. Having paid in premiums £16 10s. and £12 13s., you applied for free policies, which have been offered for £5 12s. and £3 14s. The poor have to pay for an extravagant and wasteful system, and for the additional burden which is thrown upon them by reason of the Company limiting its expenses in the Ordinary branch and throwing the balance on the Industrial. You have no redress, and must either continue paying or accept their offer.——NORTH DEVON.—You inform us that through the influence of your late husband, who was a L. E. and G. agent, a cousin insured his aunt and kept up the premium payments for nearly two years. Being unable to continue, your husband was asked to make the payments, and you were handed the policy, you say, 'with a paper signed for you to have the claim." You inform us that you are a widow left with three children, and, having paid in £13, you have been in communication with the Company, as you could not afford to keep the policy going any longer, and they offered you in the first instance a free policy for £2 18s., which you refused to accept, when the offer was increased to £3 5s. You now hold a free policy for the latter amount against premium payments of £13, or less than one-third of the sum contributed for a period of ten years. We consider it monstrous that a person in your position should have been treated in this heartless fashion.

REFUGE ASSURANCE CO.—FOG (Manchester).—Your *nom de plume* is well chosen. It is proposed that you buy outright the present policy, the bait offered being that the Company advance the money at 4 per cent. to enable you to purchase another policy for a larger amount, maturing some years after the original policy. It is an ingenious plan, and we are not aware that it is adopted by any other Company. We noticed in a recent annual report that in the increase of income "single premiums" accounted for a substantial sum. Now we understand the reason why. We should recommend you not to accept the new proposal, but to adhere to the original policy.

THE FACULTY OF INSURANCE, LTD.—CURIOUS.—The only liability which members are subjected to is £1 in the event of a winding-up, and there being no creditors. Among the avowed objects we observe that the "Faculty" has been formed "to provide a central organisation for officials and employees of Insurance Companies, Friendly Societies and Approved Societies under the National Insurance Act, and for those anxious to qualify for the higher branches of the insurance profession." You are curious to know the inner meaning of the whole business and what chance men at present in the field will have of securing better appointments if they are not associated with this organisation or educated up to the desired standard. It is impossible for us to say, as no reference whatever is made in the syllabus of the influence the "Faculty" may exert in securing appointments for its members. It would certainly be interesting to know in what manner it was brought into being. Who are its sponsors? We will keep our eye on it.

IMPERIAL FREE HOMES ASSURANCE CO.—A. W.—We note the information that this "Bond" Company was taken over by the National Standard Life Assurance Corporation, and that, acting on advice, you forwarded the certificate you held to the National to be exchanged for one of their policies on identical terms. You complain that, having received an acknowledgment that the matter was receiving attention, you are still without the policy, and that numerous letters since addressed to them and the agent have been ignored. This method of doing business is not calculated to inspire confidence, and if you can obtain a reasonable cash surrender value for the policy we should recommend you to accept it and terminate your connection with the Company.

ROYAL LONDON MUTUAL INSURANCE SOCIETY, LTD.—W. H. S. (Bristol).—We will go carefully through the documents relating to the sale and purchase of the book and the attitude adopted towards you by the Central Investment Co. Meanwhile, keep us advised of any developments that may occur.

BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CO.—E. R. (Wellingboro').—The financial position is sound enough, but we do not recommend their policies for reasons already given in this column.

INSURANCE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS—NOTICE TO OUR READERS.

Owing to the enormous number of enquiries we receive on Insurance matters, our readers will appreciate the difficulty which confronts us in giving prompt replies. Indeed, the congestion has become so great that we have decided to depart from the rule we have hitherto observed of replying only through this column, and to answer by post. Correspondents, therefore, who fail to find replies to their enquiries on this page may expect to hear from us by letter with as little delay as possible.

Result of our Second Cricket Competition announced this week. See page 925.

No Underwriting of Capital. No payment is made for Goodwill. No promotion money is payable by this Company. The Vendors take the maximum Proportion allowed by the rules of the London Stock Exchange in fully paid Shares.

A Prospectus has been filed with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, which states amongst other things that

The Subscription List will open on Monday, 23rd June, 1913, and close on or before Wednesday, 25th June, for both Town and Country.

THE ELSWICK-HOPPER CYCLE & MOTOR CO., LIMITED.

(Incorporated under the Companies (Consolidation) Act, 1908.)

Share Capital £150,000 (DIVIDED INTO 150,000 SHARES OF £1 EACH).

ISSUE OF 130,000 SHARES OF £1 EACH AT PAR.

PAYABLE:—

On Application	2s. 6d.	per share.
On Allotment	2s. 6d.	,,
One Month after Allotment	5s. 0d.	,,
Two Months after Allotment	10s. 0d.	,,

Interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum will be allowed on amounts paid in full in advance.

The Vendors take as part of the purchase money £43,333 in Fully Paid £1 Shares, the maximum allowed by the rules of the London Stock Exchange.

DIRECTORS.

EDMUND SHARER, J.P., Scotstoun House, Scotstoun, Glasgow (late General Manager, Wm. Beardmore and Co., Ltd., Naval Construction Works, Dalmuir, N.B.), Chairman.

Lieut-Col. W. H. WELLSTED, J.P., M.I.C.E., Tranby Lodge, Hessle, nr. Hull.

HENRY WILSON, J.P., The Hall, Barton-on-Humber, Director, F. Hopper and Co., Ltd.

GILBERT HENRY NOWELL, Whitecross Street, Barton-on-Humber, Director, F. Hopper and Co., Ltd.

FRED HOPPER, J.P., Elmtree House, Barton-on-Humber, Director, F. Hopper and Co., Ltd., Managing Director.

Two Directors may be nominated by The Elswick Syndicate, Ltd., after Allotment.

BANKERS.

THE NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK OF ENGLAND, LIMITED, BARTON-ON-HUMBER, Head Office, 15, Bishopsgate, London, and Branches.

SOLICITORS.

COX AND LAFONE, Tower Royal, London, E.C. (For The Elswick Syndicate, Limited.)

FRANKISH, KINGDON AND WILSON, Bowlalley Lane, Hull. (For the Company.)

AUDITORS.

BOURNER, BULLOCK, ANDREW AND CO., Chartered Accountants, Bush Lane House, Cannon Street, London, E.C.

FAWLEY JUDGE AND EASTON, Chartered Accountants, Hull.

BROKERS.

KERR, WARE AND CO., 3, London Wall Buildings, London, E.C.

DALTON AND LAMBERT, Bowlalley Lane, Hull.

SECRETARY AND REGISTERED OFFICES (*pro tem.*).

C. GORDON TEMPLE, A.C.A., Bush Lane House, Cannon St., London, E.C.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

OBJECTS.—This Company has been formed to acquire and carry on the old-established business of F. Hopper and Company, Limited, of Barton-on-Humber, Manufacturers of Cycles and Cycle Frames, and Motor Cycles and Motor Cycle Frames, and The Elswick Cycles and Manufacturing Company of Barton-on-Humber, and to raise additional capital for extensions and development.

WORKS.—The St. Mary's Cycle and Motor Works of F. Hopper and Company, Limited, are of considerable extent, covering about seven-and-a-half acres of land (six acres freehold) and consisting of a number of buildings mostly one storey. The works of the Elswick Cycles and Manufacturing Company adjoin the St. Mary's Works, and have only quite recently been erected owing to the expansion of the Motor Cycle and Cycle Car business.

F. Hopper and Company, Limited, has for many years specialised in the production of Bicycles, Tricycles, Frames and Accessories on a very large scale, and has built up a world-wide connection, resulting in a great demand for its products. This is evident from the fact that for the financial year ending 3rd August, 1912, the number of Cycles, Tricycles, Frames, etc., manufactured numbered 64,872, of which no less than 31,555 were exported to 46 countries of the World, including Japan, South Africa, Dutch, East Indies, Canada, Holland, Federated Malay States, Siam, New Zealand, Australia, etc.

The development of the business of the Company and the organisation for producing on an average 300 Cycles, Tricycles and Frames per day has been gradual over the past 30 years.

MOTOR CYCLES.—The demand for Motor Cycles and Frames from the customers of the Company has necessitated the development of this branch of the trade, and for the past year there were produced and sold 718 Motor Cycles, and judging from the orders now in hand there appears to be every probability of the sales of Motor Cycles, as well as of Tri-Cars, Side Cars, Rickshaws and Frames being largely increased during the current year.

CYCLE CAR DEVELOPMENT.—Coincident with the progress of the Motor Industry there has been a remarkable demand for the Cycle Car. With a view to meeting this demand the Company has produced a Car with a water-cooled engine and a system of friction drive (dispensing with the expensive gear box and differential axle), which can be sold at a price little in excess of that asked for a Motor Cycle and Side Car, and yet leave a handsome margin of profit. The demand for this Car will be beyond the present capacity of the Works, and will necessitate considerable extensions and the provision of additional working capital. Owing to the great demand for this Car, the Company have to refuse to book further orders for the present.

CERTIFIED PROFITS.—The books of the Vendors have been examined by Messrs. Bourner, Bullock, Andrew and Co., of London, and Messrs. Fawley Judge and Easton, of Hull, Chartered Accountants, and they report as follows:—

20th June, 1913.

To the Directors,
The Elswick-Hopper Cycle and Motor Company, Limited,
Barton-on-Humber.

Dear Sirs—

We report that we have examined the Books and Accounts of F. Hopper and Co., Ltd., for the three financial years ending 3rd August, 1912, and of the Elswick Cycles and Manufacturing Company, for the first year's trading ending 3rd August, 1912, and certify that, after making allowance for depreciation of Plant and Machinery, but before charging Interest, Income Tax and Remuneration of Managing and other Directors, the net profits were as follows:—

	£ s. d.
For the financial year ended July 30th, 1910 ...	7,403 19 7
do. do. August 5th, 1911 ...	8,407 5 11
do. do. August 3rd, 1912 ...	12,292 10 3

Yours faithfully,
BOURNER, BULLOCK, ANDREW & CO.
FAWLEY JUDGE & EASTON.
Chartered Accountants.

PROSPECTS AND DIVIDENDS.—The growth of the business has been considerable during recent years, as is indicated by the annual sales for the past three years having been £112,918, £148,863, £169,975 respectively, and the profits are of an increasing character. In view of the rapid development of the Motor Cycle and Cycle Car sections of the business, Mr. F. Hopper, the present Managing Director of F. Hopper and Company, Limited, has considered the advantages to be derived from the use of the additional Capital provided by this issue, and he reports as follows:—

"I beg to report to you, that the business of the Company continues to increase, and that the expansion of the Home and Foreign trade in Cycles, Cars and Motor Cycles provides exceptional opportunity for the beneficial use of the £24,000 which you are providing for extensions and as additional Working Capital.

"Having regard to the percentage of profit obtained on the amount of business done in past years, and the demand for the Motor Cycles and the Cycle Cars which the Company are producing, I estimate that the profit for the year 1913-14 will not be less than £20,000."

The Directors anticipate that a large additional profit will accrue as a result of the execution of the orders in hand for the Motor Cycle and Cycle Car, and after making provision for all outgoings and ample reserves for contingencies, it is calculated that the Company will be able to pay Ten per Cent. per annum on the £130,000 Shares now offered for subscription.

ASSETS.—The Assets and undertaking to be taken over as a going concern as on the 3rd August, 1912, the date of the last Annual Stock-taking, subject to this Company discharging the current trade liabilities amounting to £37,207 mentioned below, are as follows:—

	£
Land, Buildings, Workmen's Houses, Machinery and Plant	68,223
Stocks, Work in Progress, Loose Tools, Trade Utensils and Fittings	45,967
Sundry Debtors	17,035
Cash at Bank and in Hand	2,570
Premiums paid on Policies for £15,000 on the life of F. Hopper	1,613
Patents, Trade Marks and Registered Designs	547
	135,955
Deduct Current Trade Liabilities (including provision for Dividend of 7½ per cent. declared for the year ended 3rd August, 1912)	37,207
	£98,748

VALUATION.—The Land, Buildings, Workmen's Houses, Machinery and Plant, the Stocks, Work in Progress, Loose Tools, Trade Utensils and Fittings, were valued as at 3rd August, 1912, by Mr. Martin Bilton, Engineers' Motor and Cycle Trades Valuer, of Hull.

PURCHASE PRICE.—The Purchase price has been fixed at £98,748. The Vendors having great confidence in the future success of the Company agree to take £43,333 (the maximum proportion allowed to comply with the requirements of the London Stock Exchange Rules) in fully paid Shares and the balance of £55,415 in Cash. Interest is also payable on the purchase price from 3rd August, 1912, to completion of the purchase at the rate of 5½ per cent. per annum.

WORKING CAPITAL.—As will be seen from the above statement the Assets of a floating character exceed £65,000. The Additional Working Capital upon all the shares now offered being subscribed would amount to £24,000 which is considered to be ample for all immediate expansion and development purposes, leaving the remaining unissued Capital of £20,000 to be issued as required.

MANAGEMENT.—Mr. F. Hopper, who founded the business of F. Hopper and Company, Limited, some thirty years ago which has since been successfully carried on, has agreed to act as Managing Director for a period of seven years and thenceforward until determined by either party at the same remuneration as he has received in a similar capacity from F. Hopper and Company, Limited (namely, the sum of £1,250 per annum) with a commission of five per cent. on the profits in excess of ten per cent. per annum on the issued share capital. Continuity in the management is therefore assured.

Full Prospectuses and forms of application, upon the terms of which applications will alone be received, may be obtained from the Company's Bankers, Brokers, Solicitors, and Auditors, and at the Offices of the Company.

THE ELSWICK-HOPPER CYCLE AND MOTOR COMPANY, LIMITED.
Incorporated under the Companies (Consolidation) Act, 1908.
CAPITAL ... ... £150,000.
Divided into 150,000 Shares of £1 each.
Issue of 130,000 Shares of £1 each.

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR SHARES.

Payable 2s. 6d. on application; 2s. 6d. on allotment; 5s. one month after allotment; and 10s. two months after allotment.

To the Directors of The Elswick-Hopper Cycle and Motor Company, Ltd.

GENTLEMEN,—Having paid to the Company's Bankers the sum of £..... being a deposit of 2s. 6d. per Share payable on application for ..... Shares of £1 each in the above Company, I/we hereby apply for and request you to allot me/us that number of Shares, and I/we hereby agree to accept the same or any less number which may be allotted to me/us upon the terms of the Company's Prospectus dated 23rd June, 1913; filed with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, and the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company, and I/we authorise you to place my/our name on the Register of Members of the Company as the holder of such Shares so allotted to me/us, and I/we further agree to pay to the Company the further sum of 2s. 6d. per Share on Allotment in respect of any Shares so allotted, and the balance of 15s. per Share as provided by the said Prospectus.

Please write distinctly.

Name (in full).....
(Mr., Mrs. or Miss)
Usual Signature.....
Address .....
.....
Description .....

Date.....*1913.*

YOU NEED A HOLIDAY!

Then why not try for one of the 20 HOLIDAY PRIZES OF £5 EACH we are offering this week? In addition 5,153 cash and other prizes are to be won.

Second Prize £50

FIRST PRIZE £500

Third Prize £25

TWENTY HOLIDAY PRIZES OF £5 EACH.

50 CASH PRIZES OF 10s. EACH. 100 CASH PRIZES OF 5s. EACH.

4,000 HANDSOME PRIZES VALUE £900

AND 1,000 CASH PRIZES OF 2s. 6d.

Bullets can only be constructed from any of these 40 Examples:—

SEASIDE DONKEY
GOVERNMENT INQUIRY
ALEXANDRA DAY
SPONGING
FORTUNE'S FROWNS
THE HAT TRICK
ALWAYS WORKS
THE STRONGER SEX

DAY OF RECKONING
PUT OUT
BREAKING IT GENTLY
RETURNING HOME
TO BE CONTINUED
TURKISH BATH
A SOUND POLICY
THE SOFA

A LEG UP
MOST WOMEN
MOST UNPLEASANT WHEN
ENDLESS GOLD
ASKING HIS INTENTIONS
WHITEWASHING
BRIDE AND BRIDEGROOM
WELL DONE

LORDS AND COMMONS
TOMMY'S APPETITE
FOLLOW MY LEADER
WEDDING CAKE
IN LOW WATER
READY MADE
SPADES ARE TRUMPS
LIBERAL SCREW

HAMMERED
VERY NICE TOO
RISING TEMPERATURE
ASKING FOR CREDIT
MANAGING DIRECTOR
AWFULLY BORED
A SIDE ISSUE
UNWRITTEN LAW

"Bullets" is the leading skill competition with most prizes and is the ONLY Competition in which EVERY Coupon received is judged by TWO DIFFERENT ADJUDICATORS.

HOW TO MAKE BULLETS.

First choose any of our forty examples. Then give two words or three words having some bearing on the example chosen. The FIRST and LAST word selected MUST begin with ANY OF THE LETTERS in the example chosen. If three words are selected any word can be used as the middle word.

For instance, if you take the example, "MAnaging Director," and take the letters "A" and "I," using the word "business" as the middle word, you can make the Bullet, "Implies Business Aptitude." Or from the example, "FortuNe's FroWns," the Bullet "Never Welcomed," can be formed. Again if you take the example, "MoSt Unpleasant When," using the letter "S" as initial for both the first and last word, you can form the Bullet "Served with Summons."

Competitors may send in two BULLETS on one coupon for sixpence. But if both coupons are used a postal order for one shilling must be sent.

Competitors who have already won any prizes, large or small, in this competition are in no way debarred from winning again.

The ink will not run if the coupon is slightly warmed before being used.

Competitors can see The "Bullets" Judges at work at any time.

Closing date, Wednesday, July 2nd.

Example _____

Bullet _____

Example _____

Bullet _____

(39) P.O. No. _____

I agree to enter this competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on page 955.

Signed _____

Address _____

A Sixpenny P.O. Must Accompany this Coupon.

Not more than three words may be used to construct a Bullet.

This week's Bullets Coupons will also be found in "MARY BULL," dated July 5th.

Closing date, Wednesday July 2nd.

Example _____

Bullet _____

Example _____

Bullet _____

(39) P.O. No. _____

I agree to enter this competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on page 955.

Signed _____

Address _____

A Sixpenny P.O. Must Accompany this Coupon.

If Both Coupons Are Used a Postal Order for 1/- Must Be Sent.

ENVELOPES SHOULD BE MARKED "BULLETS NO. 39," "JOHN BULL," LONG ACRE, LONDON, W.C.

Write "COMPETITION" on top left hand corner of Envelope.

No element of chance enters into the adjudication of our "Bullets" Competition. Every coupon is judged by TWO DIFFERENT Members of our special staff of Adjudicators, who have been selected by reason of their high qualification for this work. This staff put aside all coupons which they consider sufficiently meritorious to qualify for a prize. So that, before any coupon is rejected, TWO DIFFERENT Judges have to decide that it is not of sufficient merit to receive a prize. Then, all coupons selected are considered by the Competition Editor in consultation with the Judges. In this manner the coupons are reduced in number to correspond with the total number of prizes to be awarded. The Competition Editor, again in consultation with the Judges, next selects all the lines of outstanding merit. These are placed before the Editor, who, after consultation, decides finally the order of merit for the cash prizes. This system of judging keeps a large staff of Adjudicators continually occupied the whole of the week—so thoroughly is the work done. We would point out that, by this system of judging, no award is decided arbitrarily by one mind. It is only after a line has been considered sufficiently meritorious by a BODY OF JUDGES IN CONSULTATION, all of whom are specially qualified for the work, that it can receive a cash or any other prize. As regards the principal prizes, the coupons of outstanding merit are considered many times by the Editor and also by the Competition Editor and the adjudicating staff, in consultation, before the final awards are made. In a sentence, ALL coupons are read and considered, and re-read and re-considered, by a specially selected staff of highly-qualified Adjudicators, under the general supervision of an experienced Competition Expert—and in consultation with the Editor. That is why "Bullets" constitute a genuine skill contest, free from any and every element of arbitrary decision or of chance selection.

The Result of the above Competition will appear in our issue dated July 19th.

RESULT OF 36TH BULLETS COMPETITION.

FIRST PRIZE OF £500:—

MISS VIOLET CARTER,
21, Venn Street, Clapham,
London, S.W.

Example—OUT OF FASHION.
Bullet—FITTING PERMITTING SITTING.

SECOND PRIZE OF £50:—

MR. E. BALLS,
99, Beresford Road, Lowestoft.

Example.—NOTHING IN IT.
Bullet.—HALFPENNY STAMP INDICATES.

THIRD PRIZE OF £25:—

MR. R. WILLIAMS-COPPACK,
18, Hawksley Road, Hillsboro',
Sheffield.

Example.—MORNING DIP.
Bullet.—MADE PAUL PRY.

20 SPECIAL HOLIDAY PRIZES of £5 Each to:—

Mr. JAMES H. MACNIVEN, 1, Howat Street, Govan, Glasgow
DIFFICULT TO FIND—NEWSBOY'S "STARTLING INFORMATION."

Mr. P. J. LEONARD, Rosehill, St. David's Road, Carnarvon.
GIRLS—SAFER THAN GIRL.

Mr. W. SHARROTT, H.M. Wireless Station, Admiralty, Whitehall, London.
MORNING DIP—GUARANTEES "EYED DEARS."

Mr. A. E. PEATY, 127, Queen Street, Cardiff.
CHESTNUTS—TELLER LAUGHS HEARTIEST.

Mr. ALFRED MARTIN, 21, Heathfield Street, Swansea. S. Wales
NOT OUT—ONLY DODGING TAILOR.

Mr. F. C. WELLS, 22, Park Street, Long Eaton, Derbyshire
NOT OUT—UNFORTUNATELY NEIGHBOURING TROMBONIST.

Mr. W. LEECH, 245, St. Albans, Road, Watford.
SWEATED INDUSTRY—"EAST" CLOTHING "WEST."

Mr. J. SPENCE 132, Thornton Road, Bootle, Liverpool.
DIFFICULT TO FIND—CAUSE, YAWN'S INFECTION.

Mr. G. LOCK, 13, Newtown Road, Woolston, Hants.
SUDDEN CHANGE—HOSPITAL, ROYALTY EXPECTED.

Mrs. ANNIE MILLER, 101, Wolfington Road, West Norwood, S.E.
SUDDEN CHANGE—"DERBY"—AND "GROAN."

Mr. A. C. SLADE, 60, William Street, Nuneaton, Warwick
DIFFICULT TO FIND—UTILITY IN LAUREATESHIP.

Mrs. GERTRUDE M. SALE, 55, St. Matthews, St., Ipswich
DIFFICULT TO FIND—CRIBS WITHOUT FIBS.

Miss BEATRICE RAYNE, 69, Edith Road, Kensington, W.
WORDS FAIL—IN RECOMPENSING WAITERS.

HENRY ROOKES, 58, Rhosddu Rd., Wrexham, N. Wales.
ON THE ROCKS—CUPBOARDS SIMULATE "HUBBARD'S."

Mrs. A. C. HUNTER, 8, Norfork Road, Aberdeen, N.B.
WORDS FAIL—RAILWAY PORTER'S DIALECT

Mrs. MAUD AGGIS, High Street, Berkeley, Glos.
WAITING FOR HER—WAITRESS BUSY TALKING.

Mr. W. NUTTING, 81, Askew Road, Shepherd's Bush, W
INDISPOSED—SPAIN AGAIN DELIGHTED.

Mrs. C. MCKENZIE, 9, Logie Green Road, Edinburgh
LOST IN TRANSIT—LIFEGUARDSMAN'S "SMALL SCOTCH."

Mr. ARTHUR CHART, 46, Elborough Street, Southfields, S.W.
MARR ED WOMAN—EXPENSIVE MISS.

Mr. WILL WISE, 15, Arklea Road, Anfield, Liverpool.
WORDS FAIL—WHEN BANKS—DITTO.

"CONTINUOUS MERIT" PRIZES.

The following "Continuous Merit" prizes of £2 : 2 : 0 each are awarded this week.

BELL, A., 406, Unthanks Road, Norwich.
BIRCH, J., Rollestone Camp, Salisbury Plain.
BRIDGE, VIOLET, 3, Lyon Villas, Middle Road, Harrow.
BROWN, S. R., 11, New Burlington Road, Bridlington.
EREAUT, E. J., 37, Norland Square, Holland Park Avenue, W.
FRANKLIN, C. D. G., Thaxted, Essex.
MOORE, A. C., 125, St. James Street, Burnley, Lancs.
MORGAN, G. (Mrs.), 94, Kennington Av., Bishopston, Bristol
MORRISON, R. L. C., 3, Greenhill Avenue, Tenby, South Wales.
ROBERTSON, C. D., 42, Main Street, Egremont, Cumb.
SMITH, BEATRICE M., 179, Wimbledon Park Rd., Southfields, S.W.
YOUNG, G. E., 4, Marmion Road, Hove.

LIST OF 100 5s. PRIZE-WINNERS. "BULLETS" COMPETITION NO. 36.

Adolph, A. T., The Croft, Langley-park, Sutton, Surrey.
Aedy, F., 82, Ledywell-rd, S.E.
Barnes, Mrs. M., c.o., Mrs. Richmond, 77, Main-st., Kilwinning.
Barnes, F., 14, Hooley-range, Heaton Moor, Manchester.
Baxter, R., 22, Curzon-st., Maryport.
Beeks, Miss R., Rothwell, Northampton.
Bell, Dorothy J., 21, West Catherine-pl., Edinburgh.
Bindloss, F., 4, Chapel-walks, Manchester.
Pond, J., 29, Locke-rd., Spondon, Derby.
Bradley, F. G., 45, Comer-rd., St. Johns, Worcester.
Brumby, C., Sandymount, Dublin.
Bush, R. W., 3, King's-ave., Buckhurst-hill, Essex.
Button, J., 86, Clifden-rd., Clapton, N.E
Bedwin, T., Goldenhill, Stoke-on-Trent.
Brier, W. A., 16, Victoria-st., Mile End, Portsmouth.
Clarton, A. O., 46, London-rd., Ipswich.
Clerk, A. B., 288, Goldhawk-rd., W.
Chapman, L. C., Roebuck-lane, West Bromwich.
Chappell, Mrs. A. F., 136, Clive-rd., W. Dulwich, S.E.
Coddington, Edith, Bridgeway House Arkwright-st., Nottingham.
Cole, G. W., 34, Ceylon-st., Battersea, S.W
Collie, Barbara H., 3, Leamington-ter Edinburgh.
Cosh, R. J., Wareham, Dorset.
Cowdrey, Miss E., Holmleigh, Oxted Surrey.
Crocker, Mrs. B., 29, Melrose-gdns Hammersmith, W.
Chapman, M., 235, High-st., Swansea.
Cuckson, E., 91, Morton-ter., Gainsboro'
Dalrymple, R., 8, Graham-st., Leith, N.B
Douglas, L., Netherwells, Wilton, Salisbury.
Driver, J. T., 2, Clover-greaves, Calverley nr. Leeds.
Duncan, C., 33, Joppa-rd., Joppa, Edinburgh.
Dyne, B., 70, Jerningham-rd., New Cross, S.E.
Eagleton, G. T., Oak Lodge, Court-rd., Eltham, S.E.
Earnshaw J. R., 4, Chapel-walks, Manchester.
Exley, A. C., 11, Brunswick-st., Cardiff.
Ellis, H. E., 29, Wilkie-bldgs., Millbank Estate, Westminster.
Fenton, M. H., 14, High-st., Skipton, Yorks.
Field, J., Rockhurst, Acton-lane, Harlesden.
Footitt, G. W., 33, Albany-rd., Manor Pk.
Gant, Mrs. N. J., 64, Hawberry-rd., Thornton Heath, Surrey.
Glenrose, C., 18, Lime-grove, Shepherd's Bush, W.
Griffiths, D. P., 70, Windsor-rd, Penarth.
Gordon, C., c.o. Blayney and Co., 32, Grainger-st., Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Hart, C. E., 7, Cross Church-st., Huddersfield.
Hartt, J., 6, Delamere-rd., Levenshulme, Manchester.
Hazlewood, F. E., 71, Victoria-ave., Newport, Mon.
Hendry, M., 50, Antrim-st., Clubmoor, Liverpool.
Hilton, W. A., 23, Richville-rd., Shirley Hants.
Hiscock, H. G. B., 27½, Hanover Buildings, Southampton.
Hobbs, Lena, 61, Waller-rd., New Cross, S.E.
Johnson, A. H., 12, Portman-st., Belgrave, Leicester.
Jones, C. F., 239, Caerleon-rd., Newport, Mon.
Jackson, E. G., 85, Wilton-av., Southampton, Hants
King, N., Cassell-rd., Fishponde, Bristol.
Leefe, D., Eastney, Buckhurst-hill, Essex.
Kenyon, J. H., 31, Station-rd., Reddish, Manchester
Lascelles R., 14, Alcester-rd., Nether Edge, Sheffield.
Mallett, M. T., 53, Elsdale-st., Well-st., South Hackney.
Mason, Mrs. S., 51, Pant Du, Port Talbot.
Mason, R. A., 35, Bayswater Mount, Leeds.
Macauley, H. A., Castledawson, Belfast.
McBain, Mrs. L., c.o. Donald, 141, Stevenson Drive, Shawlands, Glasgow.
Mockford, F., Angmering Station, Worthing, Sussex.
Moore, R. W., 4, Norman-rd., St. Werburghs, Bristol.
Moore, W. J., 49, Colwick-rd., Nottingham
Morris, C. P., 3, Westbourne-rd., Barnsbury, N.
Morton, W., 115, Roseberry-st., Union-pl., Lochee, N.B.
Morley, A., 27, King-st., Scarborough.
Newcombe, Miss V., 6, Herne Hill S.E.
Oliver, Annie, c.o. A. Ratcliffe, King-st., Wakefield.
O'Neill, F., 48, Devon-rd., Archery-rd., Leeds.
Packman, W. H., 38, High-st., S. Norwood
Pennington, T., 21, Castle-st., Worcester.
Pazzey, N., 43, Lees-rd., E. Southsea
Proddow, Miss E., c.o. 8, Strathcona-rd., Liscard, Cheshire.
Pugh, L., 21, Talbot-st., Cardiff.
Robinson, H., 6, Lancaster-rd., Westbourne Park, London
Sawyer, J., 74, Aglionby-st., Carlisle.
Sharp, Miss M., 32, Gwilyrn-st., Rhydfelan, Pontypridd.
Shepherd, F., Cloak-room Attendant, Guildford Station, L.S.W.R.
Smethurst, T., 3, St. Paul's-st., Ramsbottom, Manchester.
Smith, Miss L., 226, St. Ann Well-rd. Nottingham.
Smith, W., 2, Miel Cliff-ter., Gorleston-on-Sea.
Smith, Beatrice M., 179, Wimbledon Park-rd., Southfields, S.W.
Speakman, J. M., 161, Alliance-av., Hull.
Spooner, P., 18, Eastfields-rd., Acton, W.
Swingler, F. W., 5, Devonshire-rd., Nottingham.
Sykes, W. H., 107, Milner-rd., Selly Park, Bermondsey.
Sylverton, W., 301, Southampton-st., Camberwell, S.E.
Sparrow, Mrs., Punch Bowl Hotel, Hoylake, Cheshire.
Smith, S., 2, Ellison Gardens, Streatham Common, S.W.
Taylor, Mrs. L., 23, Vernham-rd., Plumstead, S.E.
Tempest, G., 51, High-st., Wombwell, Yorks.
Thompson, B., Kenmore, Waterloo Park, near Liverpool.
Tribe, E. T., 65, Abington-st., Northampton.
Vicat, Mrs. B., 47, Stanley-rd., Teddington Middlesex.
Watts, T. G., 49, Comer-rd., Worcester.
Weir, A., 25, Bannerman-st., Edgehill, Liverpool.
White, R., 22, Mount Pleasant-ter., Southville, Bristol.
Wightman, C., c.o. London Drapery House, Letchworth.

Selection from List of 4,000 Special Prizes.

Blakeman, Mrs. A. J., Peel-av., Bowdon.
Blanchflower, Wm., 14, Lyndhurst-ter., Swalwell, R.S.O.
Blase, Wm., 8, O'Connor Ville, Cork.
Blease, Wm., 5, Smithfield-rd., Liverpool.
Bletsoe, Chas. G., 46, Willingdon-rd., Eastbourne.
Bluett, W. P. H., 2, Beaufont-ter., South Boldon.
Blustin, A., 159, Richmond-rd., Hackney.
Blyth, Geo. A., 5, Cliff-rd., Hyde Park Corner, Leeds.
Boagey, Mrs., 19, Edendale-ter., Gateshead.
Boasley, Mrs. K., 17, Northland-rd. North, Notting Hill, W.
Bodmay, W., 105, Summer-st., Southwark Bridge, S.E.
Bolton, Jos., 18, Chiswick-st., Carlisle.
Bond, F., 14, Shaftesbury-rd., Forest Gate.
Bond, J., 4, Landsley-rd., Bush Hill Park.
Bond, F. H., 30, Hatton-av., Wellingboro'.
Boniface, J., Royal Sussex Regiment, Chichester.
Bonnell, Mr., 78, Bramcote-rd., near Camberwell, S.E.
Bonner, T. C. A., 7, Westminster-rd., Leicester.
Boot, A. J., 2, Warwick Villas, Sutton.
Booth, R. L., 1, Woods-mews, Park Lane, W.
Booth, Robt., 57, Dion-st., Burdett-rd., E.
Booth, Mr. G. M., 1, Ryton-st., Worksop
Booth, A. E., 1st A.M., Central Flying School, Upavon, Wilts.
Booth, F. Will, 6-7, Corridor Chambers, Market-place, Leicester.
Boothroyde, G. W., 25, Brailsford-rd., Brixton, S.W.
Botsler, Lilian, 3, Derby-rd., Nottingham.
Bottomley, Geo. M., Buckabank House, Dalston, Carlisle.
Bottomley, H., 18, Lievesley-st., Weaste, Manchester.
Boughton, E. C., 79, Fairacres-rd., Oxford.
Bouldon, H., West Bowerland, Okehampton.
Boulton, J., The Athenæum, Llanelly.
Boucher, R., 184, Barmouth-st., Bradford, Manchester.
Bourne, Edw. J., 12, South-st., Ponder's End, N.
Bowden, L. E., 28, Paddington Green, W.
Bowden, W. H., 3, Hatherley-st., Cheltenham.
Bennett, Miss K., Clevedon, Rustington
Bennett, Miss S. E., Clevedon, Rustington.
Bentley, J. W., 82, Bank-st., Clayton, Manchester.
Beresford, James E., 8, Clitheroe-rd., Longsight.
Berch, A. Y., 40, Tresco-rd., Peckham, S.E.
Berroliel, Miss Y., 54, Warrington-cres., W.
Berry, Arthur L., 223m, Chapel House-rd., Nelson, Lancs.
Berry, Miss H., 21, Gower-rd., Forest Gate.
Besley, Miss M., St Mary's Home, 196, Romford-rd., Forest Gate.
Best, Gro A., 553, Leigh-rd. East, Westcliff-on-Sea.
Beswick, Bert., 6, Waldrond-st., Streatham, S.W.
Betts W. H., 9, Virginia-rd., Wellfield, Huddersfield.
Bezodis, Chas., 133, St. Asaph-rd., Brockley, S.E.
Birch, S., 5, Neal-st., Watford
Birkett, L., The Chestnuts, Burgess Hill.
Birrell, Mrs. E., Sunnybank, Glasgow-rd., Perth.
Birrell, W., Trooper "A" Squadron Fife and Forfar Yeomanry, Ladybank, Fife.
Bishop, Mrs. R., 18, Saxon-rd., Bromley
Bishop, A. H., 40, Chandos-st., Coppice-rd., Nottingham.
Bishop Francis, 59, Caldershaw-rd., Ealing, W.
Bishop, Henry, 7, Bonsor-rd., Folkestone.
Bishop, Mrs H., 7, Bonsor-rd., Folkestone.
Bizley, H. M., Masonic Hall, Pontefract
Black, James, 12, Pavilion-ter., Wood-lane, Shepherd's Bush.
Blackburn, John, 47, Queen's-rd., Beighton, near Sheffield.
Blackshaw, Miss A. A., 287, Accrington-rd., Blackburn.
Blackwell, H. W., "Glengarth," Penn, Wolverhampton.
Blair, Mrs., 36, Glencollyer-st., Belfast.
Blair, J. M., Solicitor, 16, Bank-st., Airdie, N.B.
Blake, W. B., 67, Warwick-st., Middlesbrough.
Blake, Mrs. M. A., La Mascotte, The Park, Ashford.
Blake, F., 2, Dunollie-rd., Kentish Town
Blake, A. A., 1, Harris-st., Peterborough.
Blake, G., Catherine Villa, Richmond-rd., Gillingham.
Blakesley, A., 45, Arlington-rd., Camden Town, N.W.
Bean, Wm., 8, Central-rd., Blackpool.
Beard, W. B., 524, High-rd., Leytonstone.

"BULLETS" RULES (*which must be strictly adhered to*).

1. The First Prize will be awarded for what, in the opinion of the Editor, and his special staff of adjudicators, is the best Bullet received, and the other prizes in order of merit. In deciding prizes, originality and aptness will be taken into account. The right to divide a prize or prizes among two or more competitors is reserved.

2. Bullets must be plainly written on one of the coupons on page 954 and only two attempt may be written on each coupon.

3. Both coupons may be used, but each coupon must be accompanied by a postal order for 6d. made payable to JOHN BULL and crossed ——— & Co ——— Competitors must write their names and addresses, and the date of sending the order on the back of the postal order, the number of which must be duly noted on each coupon submitted. Competitors sending more than one coupon may enclose one postal order for the full amount covering the number of their coupons. Stamps will not be accepted.

4. Coupons must not cut or defaced in any manner, or have portions of another coupon pasted upon them.

5. Entries must reach us not later than the first post on the morning of Wednesday, July 2nd.

6. The Editor undertakes that every Bullet received shall have careful consideration by a competent staff of qualified judges.

7. The Editor's decision on any matter in dispute arising in connection with this competition must be accepted as final and legally binding in all respects and acceptance of this rule is an express condition of entry.

Complete List of 1,000 Prize-winners of 2/6 each, and of all other Prize-winners in the above Competition can be seen at the "John Bull" Offices.

Racing Notes.

Whether, but for the pulling down of Tracery, Prince Palatine would have won the Ascot Gold Cup, must ever remain doubtful. The two can meet again at the back end, and if they do so the odds will be nothing like so diverse as they were on Thursday last, but at the same time Prince Palatine will probably confirm his superiority.

Prophetic.

There is plenty of racing this week, but of a quiet sort. The principal event is the old-fashioned Northumberland Plate (the "Pitmen's Derby") at Newcastle to-day (Wednesday).

LADY GALETTE.

was heavily backed for the Ascot Stakes, and ran very well in that race, and looks likely to make compensation here. She may experience most trouble from THE TYLT. Other winners at Newcastle to-day may be ST. MERIADOC in the Perkins Memorial Plate and BONNYRIGG in the Monkchester Stakes. To-morrow (Thursday), GREAT SURPRISE should be a good thing for the Gosforth Park Cup. LADY GALETTE, if reserved for it, should be followed in the Newcastle Handicap, and DARK QUEEN can win the Seaton Delaval Plate for R. Day's stable.

At Brighton to-day,

SYLVA*

in the Steyning Plate represents the best thing of the week. She likes these sharp courses. GOLDEN CLOUD ought to win the Egremont Plate.

At Folkestone to-morrow (Thursday), THUNDERSTONE should win the Chatham Handicap and BEN WYVIS the Maidstone Welter.

Sandown Park will bring the week to a conclusion. There on Friday,

GIANT

ought on form to take the Claremont Handicap, and SANQUHAR should win the Sandringham Foal Stakes. On Saturday JEST will win the Atalanta Stakes. MISS SWEETIE can take the Wolsey Selling Handicap, and COURTLANDS the Robert de Witville Handicap.

SPORTING REPLIES.

The names and addresses of correspondents must be enclosed, not, of course, for publication, but in token of good faith.

SPORTING PROFIT.—(Birsfelden).—J. R. H. (London, S.E.)—We note that although your name appears on the result sheet as having drawn Lomond, you never entered the Sweep or heard of it until a friend brought you the list. We have repeatedly warned our readers to have nothing to do with these people.

ALBION "BANK" (Basle).—J. P. (St. Helens).—This is run by a notorious "wrong'un" of the name of de Paauw, and we are not surprised to hear of your experience.

PRIVATE SWEEPSTAKE.—P. M. (London).—If, as you say, there was a prize for the last horse, Craganour gets it.

UNION TURF CLUB (Sion).—L. T. (Hucknall) AND OTHERS.—Have nothing to do with this "Club."

A. LACY (Warwick).—J. G. T. (Birtley).—From the particulars you send us it is clear that this man combines the exploitation of a patent medicine with a tipster's business, and you will be well advised to have nothing to do with him.

PEOPLE'S SPORT (Arlesheim).—ENQUIRER (Hamsterley).—On no account take tickets in sweepstakes run by these people.

NUGGET SPORTING AGENCY (Birsfelden).—F. F. (Edinburgh).—We have frequently warned our readers to have no transactions with this concern, and your experience does not surprise us.

H. DIAMOND (Lucerne).—E. K. (Hucknall Torkard).—You must write to Mr. Diamond, whose address is simply Lucerne, Switzerland, for particulars.——J. E. B. (Newcastle, Staffs.).—Perfectly genuine.

SWEEPSTAKES.—A. E. (London).—Messrs. Smallman and Terry's address is Geneva, Switzerland, and both their sweepstakes and those of Mr. H. Diamond, Lucerne, Switzerland, are conducted in a perfectly straightforward manner.

THE TOTALISATOR (Lucerne, Switzerland).—W. D. B. (Forest Hill). We are sure this firm's Stewards' Cup Sweep will be conducted on perfectly straight lines. The tickets are of the popular price of 5s. each. We understand that it has already distributed over £25,000 in prizes, and hopes to double this amount before the end of the year.

TURF POOL SYNDICATE (Geneva).—B. C. (York).—We had nothing to do with the payment of the prizes.

We have to repeat that we cannot undertake to adjudicate upon betting disputes except in cases where such disputes may be referred to us by arrangement between any of our advertisers and their clients.

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RIVOLI (14 pts.)

the Editor's sole selection for the Ascot Stakes

Next Monday's issue of "Gale's Special," published at 2/6, will be sent post free in plain sealed envelope upon receipt of 1/- P.O. or Stamps to all readers of "John Bull" enclosing this paragraph.

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PERSUADE, 10 to 1 agst....	Won.
CARRIGRUE, 10 to 1 agst.	Won.
MASTER MACDONALD, 100 to 8 agst. ...	Won.
ARRIET, 10 to 1 agst.	Won.
AMBASSADOR, 3 to 1 agst.	Won.
OCYDROME, 11 to 8 agst.	Won.

The Most Successful Service Inaugurated.

On Thursday, June 5th, all Subscribers received

MEDIATOR, 9 to 2 agst., Won.

Nothing else whatever mentioned.

On Wednesday, June 18th, all subscribers received

SANQUHAR, 6 to 4 agst., Won.

Nothing else whatever mentioned.

Should the selection sent out prove unsatisfactory we definitely guarantee to send a free TATTERSALL'S RING WIRE on the next day to all subscribers.

The charge for this Special "Gale's Primus Wire" is TWENTY-FIVE POUNDS PER MESSAGE. It amounts to this, one selection only — the best selection that money, brains, and influence, can procure.

The next selection on this Gale's Primus Wire will be sent from the Newmarket Meeting on Tuesday, July 1st.

As a Special Offer to "John Bull" readers we will send this Special Wire upon receipt of £10, instead of the usual charge of £25,

and unless the selection sent out is successful, and at reasonable odds, we guarantee to send our next Tattersall's Ring Wire entirely free of charge. On the other hand, should the selection win at the odds of not less than 8 to 1 against, subscribers will, of course, forward the balance of £15.

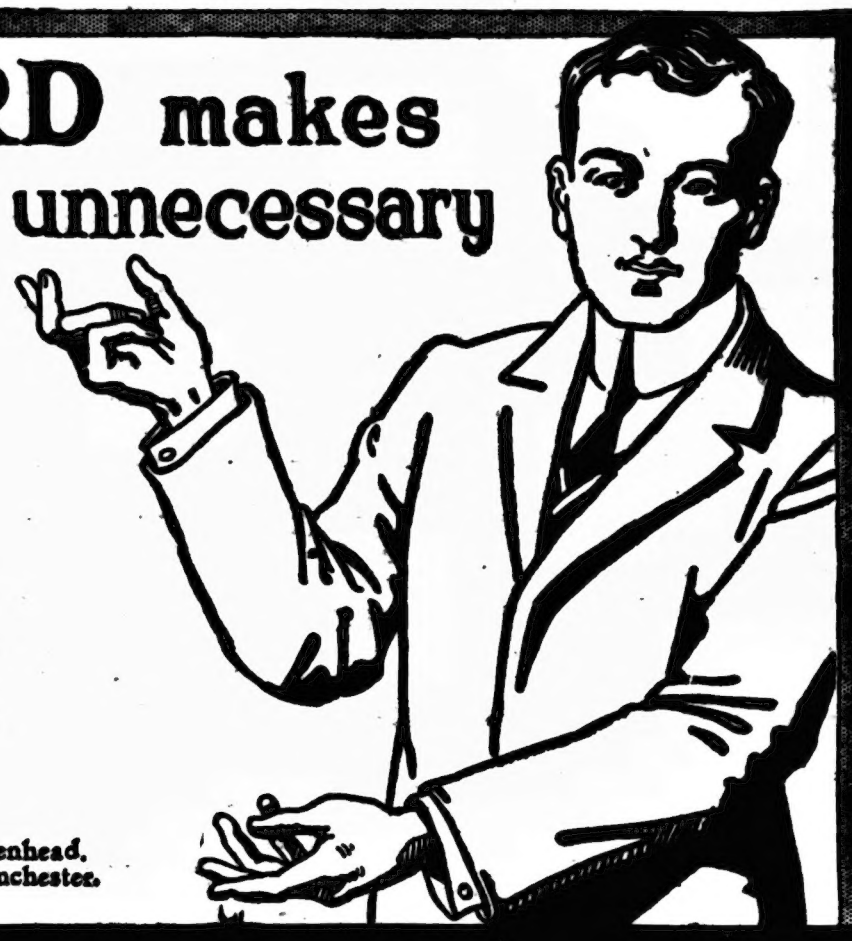
Note that our ONLY address is:—

"Gale's Special,"

Ruskin Buildings, Birmingham

Telegraphic Address: "WINNERS, Birmingham."

OUR RECORD makes further comment unnecessary



The Editor of "JOHN BULL" on February 1st, stated:—

"We have many times expressed satisfaction with Mr. H. Diamond's methods, and can assure our readers that from beginning to end each sweep promoted by him is absolutely straight, square and above-board."

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H. Colchin, Junr. Woolpack Inn, Iwade, Kent.
F. Smith, 241, High Street, Porth, Glam.
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